THE TIMES

35P

No. 65,818

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 1997

RK

THE ANGEL FROM HELL
John Travolta and *Michael* fall from grace
FILMS, PAGE 35

BEST FOR BOOKS
Madeleine Ginsburg on the 1940's New Look
PLUS the letters of Edith Sitwell
PAGES 38, 39

A GLASS A DAY...
Science finds the health ingredient in wine, says Dr Stuttaford
PAGE 18

BEST FOR JOBS

WANTED
☐ Director 75K
☐ Manager 60K
☐ Planner 50K
☐ Graduate 20K

APPOINTMENTS 30-PAGE SECTION

Deng the reformer dies at 92

Chinese instability feared after 'beloved comrade passes away'

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN BEIJING

Jiang Zemin: Deng's choice as successor

DENG XIAOPING, whose two decades as paramount leader of China brought the country both great economic reforms and the horrors of Tiananmen Square, died last night at the age of 92.

The official announcement came after days of rumours that Deng's health had deteriorated sharply. He was in the advanced stages of Parkinson's disease, complicated by a lung infection, and was reported to have died of respiratory failure after emergency treatment.

A letter to Communist Party members from China's Central Committee proclaimed "with profound grief to the whole party, the whole army and the people of all ethnic groups throughout the country that our beloved Comrade Deng Xiaoping passed away".

Last night four armed guards stood outside Deng's residence in a small lane behind the Forbidden City — home to Chinese emperors for 500 years — but there were no other signs of troop movements, and Beijing appeared calm.

Besides being of vital concern to China's 1.2 billion people, Deng's death will cause anxiety in Hong Kong, which reverts to Chinese rule at the end of June. Stability in China is considered essential to Hong Kong's future prosperity, and the news is likely to have a dramatic affect on stock markets all over Asia today.

The Chinese leadership will also be concerned about possible trouble at home. A new leadership is already in place, headed by Deng's chosen successor Jiang Zemin, but transition in China is always fraught with potential danger. A hundred million peasants are on the move looking for work in the cities, and there has been ethnic unrest in Zinjiang and Tibet.

As with Mao Tse-Tung, there is unlikely to be a gathering of world leaders for Deng's funeral since China prefers to keep such occasions to itself. A funeral committee has been set up, but the leadership will be concerned to avoid the trouble that can arise when people are allowed to congregate in large numbers — it was the funeral of the deposed party chief Hu Yaobang in 1989 that precipitated the Tiananmen Square demonstrations that were so violently suppressed.

In spite of that dark hour in Deng's leadership, foreign statesmen paid tribute to his achievements in transforming his country. President Clinton described him as an extraordinary figure on the world stage. "Mr Deng's long life spanned a century of turmoil, tribulation and remarkable change in China," he said. "He spurred China's historic economic reform program, which greatly improved living standards in China and modernized much of the nation."

Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State who was due to visit Beijing next week, recalled Tiananmen, however, and said that history's assessment of Deng would be mixed.

Malcolm Rifkind hoped that Deng's political and economic reforms would be consolidated and accelerated under the new leadership. The Foreign Secretary assumed that there would be a short period of uncertainty, but he hoped that would be followed by the stability and prosperity that were vital to Hong Kong.

Deng, who weathered three political purges during his seven decades as a Communist Party member, rose to the pinnacle of power in 1978, two years after the death of his revolutionary mentor, Mao. He inherited a country paralysed by fear and poverty after the Cultural Revolution and gave the people back their lives.

After the austere decade during which millions were persecuted or killed for political reasons, there was an explosion of once-banned music — from rock to opera — and a cultural opening up.

Deng also set about putting China on the road to a market economy, opening the nation to the outside world and encouraging people to make money. He abolished farming communes, allowed some private enterprises and opened China to foreign investment by establishing special economic zones to produce goods for export.

Under his economic reforms of the 1980s, peasants and workers could for the first time afford to buy television sets, washing machines and refrigerators. But the change also brought envy and social problems as people were laid off from moribund state-run factories, widening the gap between rich and poor.

Corruption also burgeoned, causing wrath among ordinary Chinese who have no great love for the Government or of Deng himself — largely because he was no democrat.

Human rights in China have not marked time with economic reforms, and the leading rights activists Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan are serving long prison sentences for what the West would consider normal political activity.

It is not anticipated that there will be any liberalisation under Jiang and the premier Li Peng. Li's name is also associated along with Deng's with the crushing of the Tiananmen protests — although Jiang was not involved; he arrived in Beijing later in 1989 from Shanghai where he had handled pro-democracy demonstrations without recourse to violence.

It remains to be seen whether there is any revision of the verdict on Tiananmen or any challenge to the present leadership.

> ‘This tiny, brusque man of formidable guile and willpower was a mass of contradictions. Ever ruthless, he was also several times a victim’
>
> — Leading article, page 21

Long march ends, page 15
Obituary, page 23

JOHN GIANNINI/EPA

Deng, bringer of reform and repression, died of respiratory failure yesterday

Clouds gather over Hong Kong

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

CHAIRMAN MAO famously asked: "Who are our enemies and who are our friends?" That is now the question in Hong Kong.

Short, medium, and long-term, Deng Xiaoping's death will rock Hong Kong to its core. The city's future, in the last throes of its 150-year colonial history, suddenly clouds.

The news was not met with the near-disbelief and awe that Mao's death was in 1976, nor did it envoke the sadness that greeted Zhou Enlai's demise earlier that year. Hong Kong people, intensely political, will wonder what to expect before their new Government on July 1.

They recognise the importance of their next leader, Tung Chee-hwa, the Chief Executive-designate, being in Beijing today to seek approval for the list of that government's top officials. Now it will be either scrutinised in haste and approved, or put on hold. But even if those designated do take office on July 1, for how long will they remain?

Mr Tung is in a cauldron of indecision and doubt despite whatever statements are issued in Beijing about the stability of the "core leader", President Jiang Zemin, and those who cluster about him.

Mr Deng was often quoted as saying he intended to be in Hong Kong for the handover ceremony. When his successors stand here for the raising of the red flag, will they be today's leaders, or will there already have been changes?

Tory MP hurt in go-kart accident

BY JILL SHERMAN

MICHAEL JOPLING, the former agriculture minister, was being treated for suspected back injuries last night after an accident at a Lords-Commons go-karting event in Fulham, London.

He was taken to the nearby Chelsea and Westminster Hospital with suspected fractured ribs and minor breathing problems. His condition was said to be "serious but stable".

A Conservative party source said efforts were being made to contact Mr Jopling's wife Gail, who is abroad. The MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale has already announced his intention to retire at the next election.

Clarke is isolated as Rifkind and Major harden the line on EMU

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
AND JANET BUSH

KENNETH CLARKE was left isolated last night after Malcolm Rifkind broke the Cabinet truce on Europe and said that the Government was hostile to a European single currency.

In a shift that delighted many Conservative MPs, the Foreign Secretary said that the Government was not neutral on monetary union but "on balance hostile". It was the most Eurosceptic line so far adopted by a senior minister, departing from the agreed position that ministers do not take sides on the merits of the single currency.

Despite a swift rebuttal from the Chancellor, who said that Mr Rifkind had made a "slip of the tongue under pressure", the Foreign Secretary stood his ground and was implicitly supported by the Prime Minister, who said that it was for the supporters of the single currency to show that it was "positively beneficial" for Britain to join.

In an interview with *The Times* today, Mr Clarke makes a passionate defence of the wait-and-see line that has held the Cabinet together, adding that there could be "very considerable advantages" for Britain in joining.

The Chancellor says that European politicians are increasingly jealous of Britain's position. "There is quite a bit of envy of our options because, the nearer you get to the decision, the more you face up to very important judgments about where you think your economy is going to go for the next few years."

He adds: "I think there could be very considerable advantages for the United Kingdom in joining a successful economic and monetary union. For that reason, we keep our option genuinely open and I can foresee Britain being a member, I can foresee Britain not being a member.

"This is always described as 'wait and see' as though one should not make some snap decision. I actually think it would be a terrible mistake to decide one way or the other now because you would be ruling out the possibility of making a judgment that could have a vital effect on jobs and prosperity some time in the future. So we remain open-minded on the subject."

The astonishing spectacle of Mr Major's two most senior ministers contradicting each other in public dismayed Conservative Party chiefs because it provided a graphic reminder of the divisions of recent years only weeks from the election.

Pro-Europeans accused Mr Rifkind of trying to enhance his leadership credentials with

Continued on page 2, col 5

Leading article, page 21
Clarke interview, page 29

"He was your tax inspector. You must know where it is"

Taxman jailed

Michael Allcock, the taxman convicted of taking a string of bribes, was sentenced to five years in jail. MPs condemned the sentence, claiming that it showed that white collar crime does pay .... Page 3

Buying The Times overseas
Austria Sch 40; Belgium B Frs 80; Canada $3.50; Canaries Pes 325; Cyprus C£1.20; Denmark Dkr 18.00; Finland Fmk 17.00; France F 14.00; Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 90p; Greece Dr 500; Netherlands Fl 4.50; Italy L 4,500; Luxembourg Lf 60; Madeira Esc 350; Malta 45c; Morocco Dir 27.00; Norway Kr 20.00; Portugal con Esc 350; Spain Pts 325; Sweden Skr 19.50; Switzerland S Frs 4.00; Tunisia Din 2.200; USA $3.50.

The Times on the Internet
http://www.the-times.co.uk

08

140046343

Churchill must share $10m inheritance with wife

BY ANDREW PIERCE
AND TOM RHODES

Harriman: Van Gogh left to US museum

WINSTON CHURCHILL, who spent most of his life living in the shadow of his glamorous mother Pamela Harriman, was left $10 million (£6.2 million) in her will, it was disclosed yesterday.

But in the will, signed only one month before her death last month, Harriman stipulated that he must share the estate with Minnie, his estranged wife.

Harriman, the former US Ambassador to France, was the lover of some of the world's richest men but took a dim view of her son's decision to leave his wife of 31 years for another woman in 1994.

The displeasure of the thrice-married Harriman was underlined by the decision to leave her most valuable asset, Van Gogh's *White Roses*, valued at £50 million, to the National Gallery of Art in Washington.

The inheritance comes two years after Mr Churchill, 56, received £12.25 million of National Lottery funds to secure his grandfather's papers for the nation, although most historians assumed the country already owned them.

It will soften the blow of the collapse of Mr Churchill's political career which appeared absolute yesterday. His constituency, Davyhulme, has disappeared in the boundary changes. When Mr Churchill left his wife in 1994 for Luce Danielson, his conservative association was so appalled it cancelled a lunch to celebrate his 25th year as an MP.

Pressure grew on Mr Churchill last night to pay back the lottery millions. Brian Wilson, a Labour frontbencher, said: "This confirms that Mr Churchill doesn't exactly need the lottery money. Perhaps he should examine his conscience."

Harriman's four grandchildren each receive $250,000 (£156,000) and Lord Digby, her brother, was left $100,000. The two gardeners, the butler, the cook and the chauffeur were bequeathed as much as $20,000 each in the will. But Janet Howard, a constant companion and personal assistant since 1980, is left without a cent.

& RADIO 46, 47
ATHER 24
OSSWORDS 24, 48
LETTERS 21
OBITUARIES 23
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 20
ARTS 35-37
CHESS & BRIDGE 42
COURT & SOCIAL 22
SPORT 42-46, 48
BODY & MIND 18
LAW REPORT 34

LONDON, 92 BROMPTON ROAD • GLASGOW, THE ITALIAN CENTRE

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

When viewers seem to matter more than views

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

Peter Butler certainly knows how to flatter a girl. Rising yesterday to propose a Bill to ban intruders from schools, the Tory member for Milton Keynes NE fixed Betty Boothroyd with adoring gaze. "A generation ago, Madam Speaker," he began, "when you and I were at school..." *Mr Butler is 46. Miss Boothroyd is 67.*

Earlier, she had found herself in a new predicament. Everybody knows that some MPs speaking in the chamber are less concerned with making sense to other MPs than with how they may look at six o'clock on television. Tony Blair's habit of turning his Question into a soundbite has become famous. But a convention that MPs are addressing each other, through the chair, is politely maintained.

Until yesterday. For no apparent reason, Robin Corbett, an Opposition spokesman on Industry, began: "May I assure those who watch this programme on their TVs... that Labour will show who is better able to govern?"

There was laughter. We were amused partly by Mr Corbett's gaffe, and partly by the vanity of his supposition that, were Industry Questions to be on television at all (which was unlikely), anybody would be watching Mr Corbett.

This is not a man with any obvious aptitude for the small screen. Tall and unwieldy, with scraggy hair and a haphazard turn of speech, the MP for Erdington might just be employable as an extra in a gardening programme, or in a walk-on part in *One Man and His Dog*, but would be well-advised not to give up his daytime job yet.

Miss Boothroyd looked cross, but said nothing.

She looked crosser when the Tories' Sir Irvine Patnick (Sheffield Hallam) began his question on firework safety: "I hope, in this programme, Madam Speaker..." At least Sir Irvine was addressing the camera via the chair. It was possible to hear in his patter an echo of that chap who used to do *The Good Old Days*, or to imagine him as a television conjuror, or with finger-puppets, or an emu.

"In this theatre, or chamber..." he remarked. "Or studio," shouted someone. He tried a firework joke. "Damp squib," grunted Nicholas Winterton (C, Macclesfield), for the cameras. "*I* want to hear the jokes," protested the Speaker. Next, Mark Robinson (Somerton and Frome) invited Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, to "tell the viewers you cannot cherry-pick from the social chapter". Mr Lang was once a scriptwriter for *That Was The Week That Was*. He knows about ratings. He declined the invitation to treat the session as broadcastable.

After Mr Corbett, MPs heard another of their number, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown (C, Cirencester and Tewkesbury) saying nothing much but reminding us of an amiable version of Harry Enfield's Tory Boy. If Mr Clifton-Brown could cultivate spots and expand his repertoire, there may be a future for him in comedy. On the other hand there may not. All the while, the great Shakespearean actor (resting) and Labour MP for Warley E, Andrew Faulds, had been rumbling away on his bench, beard aquiver, maddened by his exclusion from the limelight. At Points of Order he erupted.

It was a disgrace that MPs were "making remarks to viewers". He appealed to the chair to "remove those objectionable cameras". Reminding him that his own front bench had started it, Madam Speaker declined but "deprecated" the habit of addressing cameras. A generation ago, when she and Peter Butler were young, nobody would have dared.

Better vetting urged after HIV-positive doctor dies

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

HEALTH authorities yesterday demanded the introduction of stringent health checks for doctors after the death of an HIV-positive gynaecologist exposed failings in hospital recruitment practices.

Three NHS hospitals that employed 28-year-old Nigerian Olukayode Fasawe, who died last week, yesterday admitted that they did not ask him whether he had been exposed to the risk of infection by the Aids virus.

The National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts said: "It is up to trusts to be as stringent as possible in exploring the background of employees. Trusts don't want to expose themselves to the risk of being sued."

The Royal Devon and Exeter Healthcare NHS Trust said yesterday that it would review its procedures for checking the health of employees but insisted the risks of passing on HIV infection were minuscule. Dr Fasawe, a locum junior doctor who started work at the hospital on February 5, was passed as fit after undergoing the standard pre-employment medical, used by most NHS trusts, which included a questionnaire about his health.

However, there was no specific question about HIV. The closest to it was the question: "Are there any circumstances, illnesses or conditions you have which could affect your performance at work?"

Dr Rosemary Geller, whose baby was treated by the doctor, said that the risk of transmission was minute

Dr Fasawe went sick three days later and died at his flat in Exeter last week. An inquest in Exmouth yesterday was told that a post-mortem examination was carried out but no cause of death was given. The inquest was adjourned.

Dr Fasawe answered similar questionnaires at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital where he worked as a locum gynaecologist from last August until February 4 and at the Frimley Park Hospital, Camberley, Surrey, where he worked in the accident and emergency department from May until August. Neither included a specific question about HIV.

Seven patients who underwent invasive procedures by Dr Fasawe, who worked as a locum obstetrician and gynaecologist at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital from July 15-19 last year and from February 5-7 this year, were being contacted by the trust. A further 93 patients seen by Dr Fasawe were not being contacted because they are thought to be at no risk.

Dr Fasawe was registered to practice in the UK by the General Medical Council on January 2, 1996. He gave the address of his uncle in Liverpool but it is not known where he worked until he took a job at Frimley Park Hospital on May 1, 1996. He did not perform invasive procedures and the hospital said none of the 300 patients he treated are being contacted.

Fifty patients who underwent invasive procedures which he carried out at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital are being contacted.

The British Medical Association dismissed pre-employment testing for all doctors as simplistic. "A negative HIV test could provide a false reassurance because the person tested may have been very recently infected — and it can take up to three months to show a positive result. Equally the person tested could be exposed to an HIV risk immediately after the test."

The Public Health Laboratory Service said doctors were at much greater risk of being infected by HIV positive patients than vice versa. There have been no recorded cases of HIV transmission from healthcare workers to patients in the UK, and only two in the world.

The health departent said there were no plans to introduce national guidelines requiring NHS trusts to ask specific questions about the risks of HIV.
ENDS

BT

BT Internet is No.1.

This month	Last month	Provider	Telephone
1		BT Internet	
2		Wintermute	
3		NetDirect Internet	
4		Demon Internet	
5		Prestel Online	
6		NetHead	
7		Intone	

SOURCE: INTERNET MAGAZINE

Internet 97
NUMBER ONE
Provider
BT Internet

Internet Magazine confirms an outstanding connection performance in their February test – 'BT Internet's average Web site access time of just 26.50 seconds was a full five seconds faster than its nearest competitor.' For unlimited access to the Internet pay just £11.75, including VAT, per month and experience good value and a fast reliable connection. Waste no time, connect with BT Internet today.

To get your free Internet access software
Call Free*fone 0800* 800 001 *now.*

BT Internet

The BT Internet service does not include ISDN or PSTN line provision. The minimum subscription period is one month for customers paying on a monthly basis and one year for customers paying annually. No refund for subscription cancellation. Call charges are additional when using BT Internet. Standard PSTN monthly subscription charge £11.75 including VAT and £129.25 including VAT for annual subscription. Visa or MasterCard is required for payment. Business billing available on request.

Rifkind adjusts his headphones as he listens to comments after his speech

Germans interested in deeds, not semantics

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

THE nuances of Malcolm Rifkind's words were no more than another puzzling cross-channel diversion for the German leadership. The real meat of the visit, as far as the Bonn establishment was concerned, was his attempt to address the German people over the heads of their government, and spark, if not resistance, then at least an active Euro debate.

His artful speech tried to avoid direct confrontation with Chancellor Kohl, but it was plain that Mr Rifkind was in effect urging the Germans to ditch the ideas of their leader. Each of the Chancellor's favourite metaphors was taken up and dismantled with the ardour of an ambitious barrister. There was, he said, no fundamental difference between the goals of German policy in Europe, and the establishment of a European superstate." It was therefore misleading to suggest (as Chancellor Kohl has done) that Germany was not aiming for a United States of Europe.

There was no point in talking about a faster integrating Europe which left behind the "slowest boats" in the convoy: "We are not talking about convoys, we are talking about democracy. The European Union cannot afford to brush aside the deeply held concerns of its peoples just because they happen to be in a minority." Other Kohl metaphors were also thrown overboard. It was wrong to portray monetary union as a matter of war and peace — keeping Europe as it was did not signify a return to the 1920s or 1930s, said the Foreign Secretary. Rather it was the very idea of dividing Europe into fast and slow integrators which would create friction.

Thus old tired metaphors were traded for new. If European policy was a symphony, it had to be remembered that orchestras could function only on the principle of unanimity — there could be no majority voting among strings or brass.

Britain, he said, could "see all the footprints leading into the cave and none of them coming out. So they doubt whether it is wise to go any further inside themselves. Where does it end?"

The Adenauer Institute audience — policy-makers, ambassadors and retired civil servants, many with hearing problems — was not exactly representative of the German public. It was quietly dismissive, guffawing when Mr Rifkind declared with a straight face that Britain "was the least nationalist of all members of the European Union". A European Commission representative asked the Foreign Secretary why he was taking the debate to Europe instead of trying to sell his policy more persuasively to the British people. Mr Rifkind talked of a "vigorous debate" in Britain and suggested it was the Germans who were in fact fast asleep.

WHAT THEY SAID

Malcolm Rifkind (8 am): "No, we are not neutral. We are actually, on balance, we are hostile to a single currency but we accept that you have to think very carefully about these matters before you rule it out completely."
Kenneth Clarke (am): "The Government doesn't have a hostile attitude to the single currency. It was obviously a slip of the tongue under pressure."
John Major (am): "The balance is that we at present have sterling. People will have to show to us that it will be positively beneficial to change."
Downing Street spokesman clarifying the Government's position on a single currency (noon): "It is neither in that sense against it or for it. It is a question of whether, when decisions have to be made, it is in the national interest."
Rifkind (1 pm): "I am entirely happy with what both the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer were saying this morning."

EMU row isolates Clarke

Continued from page 1

the Right. But some Tory MPs took comfort from what they regarded as a significant hardening of the options-open line. They went further and criticised Mr Clarke for raising the stakes and making his diagreement with Mr Rifkind public. Iain Duncan-Smith, Tory MP for Chingford, said: "Why is a member of the Cabinet questioning a colleague in public? These things should be done privately."

In Washington, Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor, opened up another front, telling an audience of businessmen that re-electing the Tories, with a huge Eurosceptic contingent, "would be a recipe for continued civil war over Europe, with the national interest the loser".

Conservative Central Office was aghast at the reopening of party wounds on an issue that it was trying to bury in the run-up to the election.

The Tory manifesto posture on the single currency has already been agreed, with ministers accepting that the wait-and-see stance insisted on by Mr Clarke is preferable to any attempt to harden it, which would inevitably lead to a party row.

However, ministers also said that Mr Clarke had shown yet again that he was the only serious obstacle to the Government's taking a firm line in principle against the single currency.

In *The Times* interview the Chancellor takes a notably sceptical line about the prospects for a single currency going ahead in 1999 and says firmly that Britain would not be part of a fudged arrangement: "If a group of countries went ahead without achieving genuine convergence, I would be opposed and would quite openly say so."

The circumstances that would preclude his support for joining would include both creative accounting by countries seeking to meet the Maastricht treaty limit on budget deficits to 3 per cent of gross domestic product as well as any agreement to soften that figure.

The Chancellor believes that it is quite likely that monetary union will start after January 1, 1999, the date proposed at present, and that, whenever EMU does happen, he expects it to start with a few countries that have genuinely converging economies.

Yesterday's row blew up after it was suggested to Mr Rifkind during an interview on Radio 4's *Today* programme that the Cabinet was neutral on the single currency. He retorted: "No, we are not neutral. On balance, we are hostile to a single currency, but we accept that you have to think very carefully about these matters before you rule it out completely."

MPs attack MoD sale of homes to Japanese

MPs on the all-party defence select committee yesterday refused to give support to the Government's £1.66 billion sale of Service married quarters to a consortium led by the Japanese bank Nomura International. The committee, which has a Conservative majority, said in an interim report that it could endorse neither the principle of the sale by the MoD of 58,000 married quarters last year nor the choice of buyer.

£27m lottery park

A £27 million grant towards the creation of a National Discovery Park on Merseyside, was announced by the Millennium Commission. The £90 million project which, it is hoped, will create 1,600 jobs, will house national and international communication companies, studios, production training, shops and facilities for tourism.

County lifts cap

With the support of Conservative councillors, Oxfordshire has become the first local authority this year to set a budget above the Government's capping limit. Tory and Labour members on the hung council have jointly agreed to spend £6 million more than the £339.5 million Whitehall says is the maximum the county needs.

Irish protest

Dick Spring, Ireland's Foreign Minister, has protested to the British ambassador about the treatment of Roisin McAliskey, the pregnant daughter of the former MP Bernadette McAliskey, at Holloway Prison. She is being held as a high-risk prisoner while awaiting extradition to Germany on charges relating to an IRA attack.

Blandford held

The Marquis of Blandford was arrested yesterday for driving while disqualified, four days before he was due to get his licence back at the end of a 12-month ban. James Spencer-Churchill was stopped by Thames Valley Police while driving a blue N-registered Porsche in Kidlington, Oxfordshire, apparently on a shopping trip.

Nick Ross quits

Nick Ross is to leave his Radio 4 phone-in programme after more than ten years. He will go as soon as the general election campaign starts, when his Tuesday morning *Call Nick Ross* becomes *Election Call* under a different presenter. Radio 4 will announce the departure of Ross, 49, today.

Peter Barnard, page 37

Cromwell Street

A plan has been unveiled for a pedestrian walkway on the site of the demolished home of the mass murderer Frederick West. Gloucester City Council is seeking public comment on the walkway where 25 Cromwell Street stood. Nearby residents had opposed any new building and proposals for a memorial garden were rejected in a consultants' report.

Jopling injured

Michael Jopling, the former Agriculture Minister, was treated for suspected back injuries after an accident in a Lords v Commons go-karting event. He was taken from the Fulham track to the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital with suspected fractured ribs and minor breathing problems. His condition was said to be serious but stable.

Mesolithic canoe

Archaeologists have found the oldest canoe in Ireland in mudflats on the Shannon Estuary. The canoe, 16ft long and 2ft wide and carved from a single piece of poplar, has been carbon dated to 4800 BC, which is 2,000 years older than any other craft found in Ireland. It would have been used by Mesolithic settlers.

VOLVO OWNERS
COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM £120
Extra Safety = Lower Insurance
Exclusive Schemes for Volvos
Tel: 0117 929 4971 *NOW!*
or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on
0345 123111
Ask for a quote on the Internet: http://www.hhh.co.uk
Hill House Hammond
Over 250 Branches Nationwide

Investigator 'destroyed by greed'

Corrupt taxman's five years too lenient, say MPs

By Tim Jones

MICHAEL ALLCOCK, the taxman convicted of taking a string of bribes, was sentenced to five years in jail yesterday.

As he began his prison term, MPs condemned the leniency of the sentence, claiming that it showed that white collar crime does pay.

Allcock, 47, showed no emotion as Judge Beaumont told him at the Old Bailey that he had been destroyed by his own greed. "Your corrupt behaviour has cast a long shadow which I cannot ignore. It has called into question the careers of others and has threatened the integrity of the service itself. You are a man of marked ability and drive and with a determination to succeed.

"The sadness of your case is that the evidence makes it equally clear that had you the will to do so, you could have prospered in a career at the Inland Revenue which had begun so promisingly. You hadn't got that will. It was destroyed by greed for a style of life and the trappings of success which went with money far, far beyond that which you earned."

That greed, the judge said, had blurred his distinction of what was acceptable and what was not in the way he conducted himself in the far from hidebound regime of the Special Office.

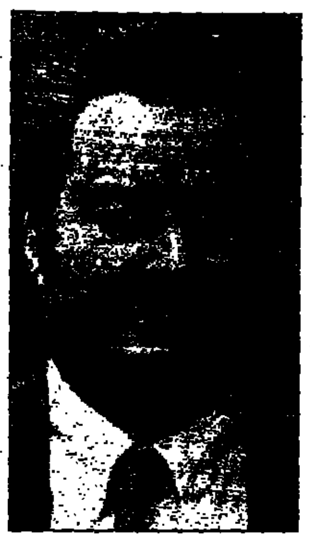
The judge said: "The public expects and is entitled to expect its servants to be incorruptible. That they are is, in part, maintained by the knowledge that when public servants are found to fall below those standards it is met with instant imprisonment.

"Your corrupt behaviour is aggravated by the length of time it continued and by the scale on which you were prepared to accept the largesse of those seeking favoured treatment."

The sentence was criticised by Toby Jessel, Conservative MP for Twickenham. "This sentence for this type of offence should be exemplary," he said. "I think the Inland Revenue themselves would want to uphold the highest standards and would expect a sentence so severe that no one else would risk that kind of corrupt behaviour. This is adisappointingly modest sentence."

Lady Olga Maitland, Tory MP for Sutton and Cheam, said: "This demonstrates that white collar crime can pay."

Eddie Loyden, Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, said: "It appears to be a paltry sentence. It is a question of the punishment fitting the crime and that does not appear to have happened in this case."



Allcock: faces further questioning in prison

Allcock is expected to be questioned in prison by detectives who believe he may have secreted away more than £500,000 taken in bribes. In spite of a five-year investigation and a four-month trial, estimated to have cost £5 million, detectives have traced only £150,000.

They are convinced that with his lavish lifestyle of fast cars, holidays and sex — Allcock was provided with a prostitute — he took far more than has been accounted for as he protected wealthy businessmen from paying their full tax liability.

Sally Allcock, 44, dismissed suggestions that her husband had money hidden in foreign bank accounts. Speaking from her home in Colchester, Essex, she said: "I am obviously devastated by what has happened. I know Michael is not a corrupt man.

"I find it unbelievable that after all the money he has recovered for the revenue they could round on him in this way. I love him and will stand by him."

Allcock had been convicted of six charges of corruption while heading a special unit, known as Ghostbusters, which concentrated on chasing wealthy, mainly foreign businessmen, for undeclared tax.

He was convicted of accepting the services of a call girl, Michelle Corrigan, as a bribe from Hisham Alwan, an Iraqi-born oil consultant. Alwan, 57, from Knightsbridge, London, who was convicted of paying for Allcock's first sex session with Miss Corrigan, was given a nine-month suspended sentence and allowed to leave the court.

Alwan, who owes the Inland Revenue more than £200,000 in unpaid taxes, was ordered to pay a token £1,000 towards the prosecution costs.

Five other charges against Allcock were ordered by the judge to lie on the file. They allege he had claimed a total of £420 expenses for five hotel trysts with Michelle Corrigan between 1990 and 1992. Allcock denied all of them in court and the prosecution said that as they alleged corruption on a lesser scale, they were content not to proceed.

In the wake of the scandal, the worst in the history of the Inland Revenue, several of Allcock's inspector-level colleagues face internal inquiries and sanctions that could include dismissal.

Miss Winkett outside St Paul's, where her appointment as the first woman canon led its chancellor to say he would absent himself when she celebrated communion

Woman canon not upset by criticism

By Ruth Gledhill
Religion Correspondent

THE Rev Lucy Winkett returned to St Paul's Cathedral from a skiing holiday yesterday and said she was not upset by the criticism her appointment as its first woman canon had attracted while she was away.

"I have been involved in the Church for most of my life so I have been well aware that the Church holds within it differing opinions on the subject of the ordination of women," Miss Winkett, 29, said. The Cambridge graduate, who is a talented soprano, said she was proud of the Church for finding a way to live with its differences.

"There is pain on both sides. What I feel very strongly is that I want to overcome the differences between someone like me, who feels as a woman called to the priesthood — I believe myself to be a priest — and someone who finds that very difficult."

One member of the chapter, Canon John Halliburton, the chancellor of St Paul's, has said he will absent himself from the cathedral — a bastion of Anglo-Catholicism — whenever she celebrates communion. Yesterday, he joined Miss Winkett and the Dean, the Very Rev John Moses, at St Paul's chapter house and repeated that, although he was "looking forward very much" to working with her, he would not be present at such times.

"A certain authority has to be abroad in the Church before you take a step like the ordination of women to the priesthood," he said.

Miss Winkett said her vocation had come upon her in a single moment, when she was about 23. "I was sitting in a church service one evening and it just kind of happened. Something clicked inside me and I wanted to be a priest."

Miss Winkett went to theological college after her boyfriend, Andrew Stillwell, died after he fell while walking in the French Alps. She said there was no direct link with her calling. "I would not say that there is any kind of logical progression from one to the other. That is too easy and death is not like that."

Dowding: planned defence of Britain

Hope of promotion for hero Dowding

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

LORD DOWDING, who masterminded the Battle of Britain as Commander-in-Chief Fighter Command in 1940, may be given a unique posthumous promotion.

The RAF hero was never appointed to the five star marshal of the Royal Air Force rank, despite his huge achievements in saving Britain from Hitler's bombers. Although Winston Churchill made him a baron in gratitude for his wartime command, Lord Dowding remained a four star air chief marshal.

After a long campaign by surviving Battle of Britain pilots, the Ministry of Defence has now finally agreed to look into his possible posthumous elevation to marshal of the Royal Air Force. A spokesman for the RAF confirmed that the matter was being studied, although he emphasised that it would be "most unusual" to have a postumous promotion.

He added: "Lord Dowding received a number of honours for his achievements in the Second World War and he is one of the few RAF commanders to have a statue erected in London." David Whiting, Lord Dowding's stepson, said yesterday: "I'm delighted. Had he been marshal of the RAF his final years would have been far easier for him as he would have continued with a very good war pension."

Peter Vincent, one of the leading campaigners for Lord Dowding's posthumous promotion, said: "They must be able to bend the rules."

Three months for PC in death race

By Joanna Bale

A POLICE patrolman was jailed for three months yesterday over the deaths of his colleague and an innocent motorist in a crash during a 100mph chase.

PC Leslie Collins, 43, of West Midlands Police, was found guilty of two charges of causing death by dangerous driving. The jury took nearly four hours to reach unanimous decisions at Birmingham Crown Court.

PC Collins was at the wheel of a marked patrol car which responded to an alarm call in Oldbury in the early hours of December 17, 1995. On arrival, he saw a stolen red Ford Escort drive away. PC Collins and his passenger, PC Robert Dallow, 41, gave chase.

The Escort, driven by a 16-year-old youth, drove around local streets before going on to the A4123 Wolverhampton Road dual carriageway. Michael Joyce, for the prosecution, said: "In the course of the pursuit, the defendant went through a red traffic light and collided with a vehicle driven by Neil Homer, which was crossing with the lights in his favour."

Mr Homer, 20, of Oldbury, West Midlands, was at the wheel of a white Vauxhall Nova, had slowly pulled out of the junction. The police car slammed into his driver's door at a speed estimated at 93mph. The police car swerved off into iron railings.

Investigations showed that the young man's car was travelling at about 20mph when he was killed. PC Dallow also died, but PC Collins walked away virtually unscathed. He was later suspended from duty.

Some witnesses said they had not seen brake lights on the police car as he approached the junction, and it appeared he had engaged the brakes only after had seen the Nova, when it was too late to avoid the collision. The officer maintained that he had his blue lights flashing and two-tone horn sounding to alert other motorists.

PC Collins, a qualified adavanced driver, maintained that he had believed the pursuit was safe. The 16-year-old driving the stolen car was later sentenced to 12 months in custody for motoring offences, including aggravated vehicle taking.

Drug user cleared of Rolex robbery

By Stephen Farrell

A SELF-CONFESSED drug user was cleared of robbing a company director of his £16,000 Rolex watch at knifepoint yesterday after saying that cocaine dealers kidnapped his young son and forced him to it.

A jury found Alec Alowade, 21, had acted under duress in the attack on Vincent and Elizabeth Monsey while their Range Rover was stuck in traffic in west London last August.

Mr Monsey, 53, told Southwark Crown Court how two hooded men broke the driver's window, ripped off his watch at knifepoint and fled after failing to take his wife's matching £12,000 Rolex.

Alowade, from Paddington, west London, was caught moments later by plainclothes police and a group of South African tourists who gave chase and found the stolen watch in his pocket.

He admitted taking part in the attack but denied charges of robbery and attempted robbery, saying he had acted under duress because he owed an £800 cocaine debt to a Yardie gang who had abducted his son and increased the sum to £2,500. A second defendant, Tarek Alayli, 21, of Fulham, west London, admitted both charges. He will be sentenced later.

Sally Howes, for the prosecution, said Mr Monsey, who was recovering from a heart attack eight months earlier, and his American-born wife Elizabeth, 36, a cable television programming director, were driving home to Barnes, southwest London, when he saw two hooded men one black and one Mediterranean, approach the car. The pair smashed the driver's window to get in.

Mr Monsey said: "The black man came right into the car and started fighting with us. The top half of his body was completely in the vehicle. The whole time they kept saying, 'Give us the Rolex or we'll stab you'. The black man leant across me and started attacking my wife. She screamed: 'He's got a knife'.

Mr Monsey said they had appealed for help to a taxi driver, who just shrugged his shoulders and turned away.

Mrs Monsey, who used a pen to fight off the attackers, was cut on her palm.

Britain may yodel to reach peak of the Eurovision song mountain

By Damian Whitworth

SCOTSMEN haven taken a singing tip from the Swiss to create Britain's hottest contender to end 16 years of failure in the Eurovision Song Contest. Their entry is a full-throated mountain yodel.

The writers of *Yodel in the Canyon of Love* admitted last night that the song was a spoof based on a pile of sillier entries from Eurovision history, but insisted that it was also a serious love song. Kenny MacDonald, who collaborated with Gordon MacDonald, who is no relation, said: "I take my inspiration from the more fun side of Eurovision, but it is also a positive love song and will be performed like that."

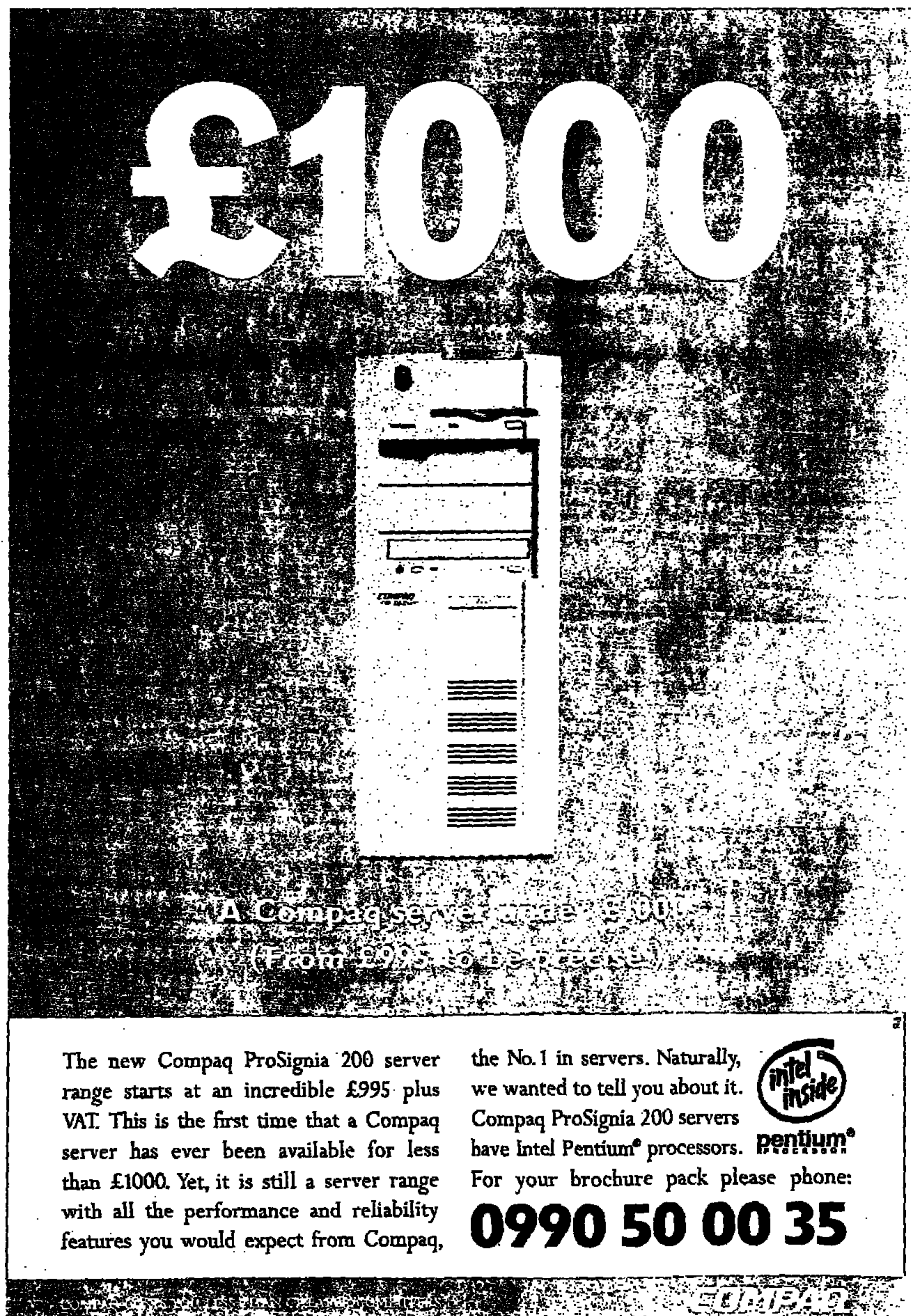
The song is on the shortlist of four for the Great British Song Contest, which will select the UK Eurovision entry next month. It will be sung by Kerry McGregor, 22, who is paralysed from the knees down after falling out of a tree as a teenager. The record features a dance beat underneath the kind of ululations designed to communicate with a neighbour on the far side of an Alpine valley. Such cowherd-wooing lyrics as "I yodel in the canyon of love/I call your name/Again and again".

Jonathan King, the organiser of the Great British Song Contest, said he loved the record but was uncertain how it would fare when other European countries judged its quality: "It's absolutely a spoof and I think it's terribly funny. But it is also infectious and catchy and sounds like a hit. However, I dread the idea of it being our entry because it will either storm it or get nul points, though I would hope for douze points from the Swiss and Austrians."

Britain last won the Eurovision Song Contest in 1981 with Bucks Fizz and *Making Your Mind Up*, a fairly straightforward ditty, but the annals of the contest are littered with preposterous winners. Our very own Lulu triumphed with *Boom Bang-A-Bang*, and other victorious entries have included *Ding Ding Dong* from the Dutch, *Diggi-loo, Diggy-ley* from the Swedes, *A-Ba-Ni-Bi* from Israel and *La La La* from Spain.

"Unfortunately the silly songs are now in the dim and distant past," said King. "Recently they have been neither silly nor good. Let's hope this year we can break the mould."

When the laughter at the Swiss embassy had subsided, a spokeswoman said: "We don't have a monopoly on yodelling. There are the Austrians and Germans of course, and the Japanese have become very taken with it. We welcome all yodellers."



The new Compaq ProSignia 200 server range starts at an incredible £995 plus VAT. This is the first time that a Compaq server has ever been available for less than £1000. Yet, it is still a server range with all the performance and reliability features you would expect from Compaq, the No.1 in servers. Naturally, we wanted to tell you about it. Compaq ProSignia 200 servers have Intel Pentium® processors. For your brochure pack please phone:

0990 50 00 35

Prices are UK Typical Buying Prices and exclusive of VAT at 17.5%. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

NOTHING TO PAY FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS*

SAVE £450

PACKARD BELL
100MHz Pentium Processor.
8Mb RAM. 1Gb hard disk.
Quad speed multimedia.
Over £1000 worth of software.†
HURRY LIMITED STOCKS!
Was ~~£1299~~ ~~£1249~~ ~~£1049~~ £949.
Model: Packard Bell 923D

FINAL SALE REDUCTION £849

NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

PACKARD BELL
120MHz Pentium Processor.
8Mb EDO RAM. 1.2Gb hard disk. Six speed multimedia. 28.8k.bps data/fax modem. Remote controlled communications card. Radio card. **Over £1000 worth of software**†.
HURRY LIMITED STOCKS! Was ~~£1499~~ ~~£1299~~ ~~£1199~~ £1149.
Model: Packard Bell 9002D
SAVE £400 FINAL SALE REDUCTION £1099
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

PRINTER SALE – SAVE UP TO £100

SAVE £40

HEWLETT PACKARD
Colour Inkjet Printer.
600 x 600 DPI resolution (black), 600 x 300 DPI resolution (colour). Up to 5 pages per minute. 100 page sheet feeder. Includes 101 Dalmatians print studio software.
Was ~~£299~~ ~~£275~~ £269.
Model DJ693c
£259

CANON
Colour Inkjet Printer.
720 x 360 DPI resolution (black).
Up to 4 pages per minute (black).
Includes DK Dinosaur Hunter software.
Was ~~£199~~ £189.
Model: Canon BJC240
SAVE £20 £179

OKI
LED Page Printer.
600 DPI resolution, up to 4 pages per minute, 100 page automatic sheet feeder.
Was £249.
Model: 4W LED
SAVE £50 £199

CANON
Colour Inkjet Printer.
720 x 360 DPI colour printing.
Up to 5 pages per minute (black).
100 page sheet tray. Photo-real printing capability. Was £259.
Model: BJC4200
SAVE £10 £249

BROTHER
Laser Printer.
1200 x 600 DPI resolution. Up to 12 pages per minute, 2Mb memory with enhanced memory control, 75 scalable fonts. Was £1049.
Model: HL-1260e
SAVE £100 £949

25% OFF INKJET CARTRIDGES
WHEN YOU BUY ANY INKJET PRINTER
Ask in-store for details

PERIPHERALS SALE – SAVE UP TO £120

CD-ROM DRIVE
Creative Labs 12 speed CD-ROM Drive.
12 speed enhanced IDE drive. Includes Encarta 97. Infrared receiver/remote control Net browser. 1800 KBS transfer rate.
NEW £129

TAPE BACKUP
Colorado DJ-35.
Internal 350Mbyte tape backup device. Includes backup software for DOS, Windows and Windows 95.
Was £99.99.
HALF PRICE £49.99

SCANNER
Logitech Pagescan Colour Pro.
400 dots per inch resolution full colour page scanner with full suite of image management software. Includes advanced document feeder. Was ~~£289~~ £279.
SAVE £50 £249

SCANNER
Hewlett Packard 4S.
Greyscale Full A4 page scanner. Includes full suite of Document Management Software, OCR, mail, fax and print.
Was £179.
SAVE £30 £149

HARD DRIVE
Western Digital 3.1 Gbyte Hard Drive.
3.5" Internal IDE Device.
Full instructions included.
Was £399.
SAVE £120 £279

DIGITAL CAMERA
Kodak DC20.
Full colour digital camera. Capture images in full colour and download to your PC for editing, printing or storing.
Was £299.
SAVE £100 £199

MULTIMEDIA KIT
Creative Labs Family Eight.
Eight speed CD-ROM drive.
16 bit soundblaster card.
Stereo speakers and various Microsoft family titles.
Was £259.
SAVE £10 £249

MEMORY BUY ONE AND GET THE SECOND FOR HALF PRICE
Simm Cards
Full range of configurations available.
Buy one Simm and get the second of the same specification for half price.
FROM £19.99 EACH

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST EVER COMPUTER SALE

HURRY LAST FEW DAYS

PC PRICES CUT EVEN FURTHER

SAVE £400

PACKARD BELL
120MHz Pentium Processor
8Mb EDO RAM. 1Gb hard disk.
Six speed multimedia.
3D surround sound.
Over £1000 worth of software†.
HURRY LIMITED STOCKS!
Was ~~£1399~~ ~~£1199~~ ~~£1149~~ £1099.
Model: Packard Bell 9001s
FINAL SALE REDUCTION £999
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

NEW MMX™ FROM £1599
LATEST ULTRA-FAST PENTIUM® PROCESSOR

Acer
166MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
16Mb EDO RAM. 1.6Gb hard disk. 256K cache memory. Eight speed multimedia. 33.6K.bps data/fax modem. 15" monitor.
Model: Acer Acros P166 MMX
NEW £1599
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

COMPAQ
166MHz Pentium® Processor with MMX™ Technology.
24Mb RAM. 2.1Gb hard disk. Sixteen speed multimedia. 1Mb EDO PCI graphics. 33.6K.bps data/fax/voice modem. Easy access buttons – direct access to applications.
Model: Compaq 4760 P166MMX Minitower
NEW £1999
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 12 MONTHS

PACKARD BELL
166MHz Pentium Processor with MMX Technology.
32Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk. 256K cache memory. Eight speed multimedia. 33.6K.bps modem. 2Mb 3D graphics card. Media Select Panel – allows easy access to applications.
Model: Packard Bell 9010XE
£1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE £2199
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 12 MONTHS

120MHz PENTIUM MULTIMEDIA PCs FROM £899

SAVE £100

AcerACROS
120MHz Pentium Processor.
8Mb RAM. 810Mb hard disk.
14" Monitor. Eight speed multimedia.
Stereo Soundcard and speakers.
Plus FREE £650 worth of software†
HURRY LIMITED STOCKS. Was £999.
Model: Acer Acros P120 Multimedia
NOW ONLY £899
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

PACKARD BELL
100MHz Pentium Processor.
8Mb RAM. 850Mb hard disk.
Quad speed multimedia. 28.8K.bps data/fax modem. Remote controlled communications card. Radio card.
Over £1000 worth of software.†
HURRY LIMITED STOCKS.
Was ~~£1349~~ ~~£1149~~ £999.
Model: Packard Bell 909D
SAVE £450 FINAL SALE REDUCTION £899
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

PACKARD BELL
P133MHz Pentium Processor.
16Mb RAM. 1.2Gb hard drive.
Six speed multimedia.
Over £1000 worth of software.†
Was ~~£1699~~ £1399.
Model: Packard Bell 9004D
SAVE £300 FINAL SALE REDUCTION £1299
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

FUJITSU
120MHz Pentium Processor.
8Mb RAM. 1Gb hard disk.
256k cache memory. Six speed multimedia. 28.8K.bps data/fax modem. **HURRY LIMITED STOCKS.** Was ~~£1149~~ ~~£1099~~ £999.
Model: Fujitsu CS3000 P120
SAVE £200 FINAL SALE REDUCTION £949
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

APRICOT
133MHz Pentium Processor.
16Mb RAM. 2Gb hard disk.
Eight speed multimedia.
256K cache memory.
28.8K.bps data/fax modem.
3D surround sound.
Model: Apricot MS540 P133 16/2 Multimedia
NEW £1499
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

PACKARD BELL
120MHz Pentium Processor.
8Mb RAM. 1.2Gb hard disk. Six speed multimedia. 28.8K.bps data/fax modem. Remote controlled communications card.
Over £1000 worth of software.†
HURRY LIMITED STOCKS.
Was ~~£1599~~ ~~£1399~~ £1249.
Model: Packard Bell 9003D
SAVE £450 FINAL SALE REDUCTION £1149
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

PACKARD BELL
133MHz Pentium Processor.
16Mb RAM. 1.2Gb hard disk.
Eight speed multimedia.
28.8K.bps data/fax modem.
Over £1000 worth of software.†
Was ~~£1799~~ £1599.
Model: Packard Bell 9005D
SAVE £300 FINAL SALE REDUCTION £1499
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

PORTABLE PCs – SAVE UP TO £500

SAVE £200

TOSHIBA
100MHz Pentium Processor.
8Mb EDO RAM. 810Mb hard disk.
11.3" Dual Scan Colour Display.
Was ~~£1399~~ ~~£1299~~ £1249.
Model: Toshiba Satellite 110CS
OUR LOWEST EVER PRICE £1199▲
▲ PRICE ORIGINALLY REDUCED PRIOR TO SALE.
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

TOSHIBA
100MHz Pentium Processor.
8Mb EDO RAM.
810Mb hard disk.
11.3" dual scan colour display.
Six speed multimedia.
Was £1599.
Model: Toshiba 200CDS
SAVE £50 FINAL SALE REDUCTION £1549
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 9 MONTHS

TOSHIBA
120MHz Pentium Processor.
16Mb EDO RAM.
1.3Gb hard drive.
12.1" dual scan colour display.
2 x Type II PCMCIA slots.
Was £2499.
Model: Toshiba 500CS
SAVE £500 FINAL SALE REDUCTION £1999
NOTHING TO PAY FOR 12 MONTHS

SOFTWARE SALE – SAVE UP TO £290

MICROSOFT OFFICE 97
The world's most popular office suite now includes the power of the web. Includes Microsoft Word 97, Excel 97, Powerpoint 97 and new Outlook 97.
NEW £199
Standard version upgrade.

FLYING CORPS
Find out how it feels to fly, and fight with World War I planes. In 1917 aerial combat was intimate and the tools of the trade limited to a machine gun.
▲ WORTH £12.99. ASK FOR DETAILS.
FREE GAME PAD▲ £29.99

Pipex Dial
All you need to access the internet quickly and easily.
Was £24.99.
SAVE £5 £19.99

TurboCad 2D/3D
The world's best selling 2D CAD program.
Was £79.
SAVE £30 £49

COREL DRAW v6
The ultimate 32 bit graphics package. Includes Draw, Photopaint, Dream 3D, Motion 3D, Presents OCR Trace and 25,000 Clip Art images. Was £389.
Full product.
SAVE £290 £99

Doctor Solomons Anti Virus Quarterly Update
Doctor Solomons is widely acclaimed as the most effective anti virus package.
Was £99.
SAVE £20 £79

*NOTHING TO PAY FOR UP TO 12 MONTHS

Buy now with nothing to pay for 12 months. Interest will be charged from the date of the agreement if the loan is not paid within 12 months. Typical example: Cash price £1800 inc vat. NO deposit and loan amount is £1800. No payment for 12 months, then either settle the balance in full, total amount payable £1800. No interest, OR 37 equal monthly payments by direct debit of £90.43. (Total amount payable £3345.91.) Subject to status.

APR 29.5%

THE BEST CHOICE FOR ALL YOUR BUSINESS COMPUTING NEEDS

EXPERT ADVICE
- Every store has a specialist Business Centre, with all the help you need to make the right choice for your business.
- Expert business computing staff, dedicated specifically to business support.
- Expert technical back-up including upgrades and installations.

AFTER SALES SUPPORT
- Business account facilities available (subject to status).
- Easy telephone ordering and next day delivery nationwide (for orders before 4pm).
- Open 7 days per week and until 8pm weekdays.

IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY
- An unbeatable combination of over 5,000 top name leading edge products.
- Products available to take away immediately from stock.

LOW PRICE PROMISE We won't be beaten
We promise that if you find the same offer available at a lower price in any other local retail store within 7 days of purchase we will refund the difference – guaranteed providing you produce your receipt and details of where you saw the offer.

PC WORLD
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464

- ABERDEEN
- BIRMINGHAM JUNCTION 9 OFF M6
- BRISTOL
- CARDIFF
- CHATHAM
- COLCHESTER
- COVENTRY
- DERBY
- EDINBURGH
- GATESHEAD
- GLASGOW
- HULL
- LEEDS
- LIVERPOOL
- MANCHESTER
- MERRY HILL-DUDLEY
- NORTHAMPTON
- NORWICH
- NOTTINGHAM
- PETERBOROUGH
- PORTSMOUTH
- PLYMOUTH
- READING
- SHEFFIELD
- SLOUGH
- SOUTHAMPTON
- SPRUCEFIELD
- STOKE
- SWINDON

LONDON AREA
- BRENTFORD
- CROYDON
- ENFIELD
- GUILDFORD
- LAKESIDE
- STAPLES CORNER

INTERNET
WWW.PCWORLD.CO.UK

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

†BASED ON CURRENT SELLING PRICES OF ACTUAL OR EQUIVALENT TITLES (EXCLUDING DISKS AND MANUALS FOR PRE-LOADED SOFTWARE). THE INTEL INSIDE LOGO AND PENTIUM ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS AND MMX IS A TRADEMARK OF THE INTEL CORPORATION. WRITTEN CREDIT QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM: DEPT. MK/PCW, MAYLANDS AVENUE, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, HP2 7TG. ALL PRICES INC. VAT.

Figures threaten viability of register

Home Office says more than 100,000 paedophiles at large

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

AT LEAST 110,000 convicted paedophiles live in England and Wales, and most of them are at large, according to a detailed Home Office study. They are among 260,000 men who have been convicted of sexual offences.

The scale of the problem casts doubt on the Government's strategy of tackling public concern by requiring sex criminals to register their addresses with the police. It also highlights the scale of the problem faced by schools, playgroups, churches and others hoping to keep paedophiles away from children.

A total of about 4,200 sex offenders are in prison, at least half of them for offences committed against children. The proposed register will not be retrospective, so it would be decades before a comprehensive list of men who pose a potential danger to children and women is complete.

The figures are contained in a draft report placed in the House of Commons library by the Home Office Minister David Maclean, in response to a question tabled by Peter Thurnham, a Liberal Democrat spokesman on social services. The document has been prepared by Peter Marshall of the Home Office Research and Statistics Directorate, using a computerised database of all convictions.

It is a difficult exercise to work out how many of the population have committed offences. Some are convicted of several at once and others reoffend over years. It is the first time the real proportion of paedophiles has been calculated. This week the authors of an Australian paedophile register containing hundreds of names, and some photographs, promised to publish a similar book for public sale in Britain.

The Home Office figures include an age breakdown. There are 4,000 men aged 20 to 25 with paedophile convictions; 6,000 aged 26 to 29; 21,000 in their 30s and 79,000 over 40. Male child molesters are six times as likely to commit an offence against a girl as a boy. Because illegal sex is so widespread, the register is likely to become unwieldy over the years.

The Sex Offenders Bill excludes people involved in minor offences, such as prostitutes and their clients, men who commit indecent exposure and people possessing hard pornography depicting adults.

It also makes some exclusions on grounds of age; the obligation to register would not include teenagers who had sex with under-age partners, and homosexuals who behaved indecently with other men aged over 18.

That still leaves 125,000 men who would have been required to notify police of their addresses if the law had been in force since the 1950s. That is the number of males who have committed such crimes as rape, incest, indecent assault, and sex with minors.

The register would be even longer because people who are cautioned instead of going to court would be included on the list for five years. There are 2,200 cautions a year given to men for sexual offences.

The reconviction rate for sex criminals is lower than for other types of crime, but experts believe that many more continue to offend without getting caught. Within five years of conviction for a sexual offence, 10 per cent of offenders had been convicted of another sex charge and a further 12 per cent of violence. The 110,000 figure for the number of convicted paedophiles is likely to be far below the real rate of child molesting, because so few cases reach the courts and many suspects are cleared. Mr Thurnham said: "They reckon that only 5 per cent go before a court and a smaller percentage are found guilty. This is because of the difficulty of children as witnesses, and abuse within the family where there is a conspiracy to keep it from court. It will be decades before the register is anywhere near complete although it is a step in the right direction."

Mr Thurnham said paedophiles should remain in custody until they were assessed as being safe for release. He doubted, in election year, whether the Government would promise adequate treatment to cure molesters: "People are not voting politicians in on the amount of money they spend on treatment for paedophiles."

Thurnham: called for spending on treatment

Jailed molester loses right to council house

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

A COUNCIL won the right yesterday to refuse to rehouse a convicted paedophile with a long history of assaults on children who lost his council home when serving a jail sentence.

In a landmark case, the High Court ruled that the circumstances provided "ample justification" for the London Borough of Hounslow's refusal to provide a roof for R, a 65-year-old man who cannot be named.

The man had accused the housing authority of acting illegally when it decided he was not entitled to help because he had made himself "intentionally homeless" by being jailed for sexual assaults on boys and losing his original council accommodation.

Stephen Richards, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, rejected the man's application for judicial review. The judge agreed with the council that "a fair-minded bystander", knowing of R's long history of sexual offences against children and long periods in prison, would "unhesitatingly conclude" that loss of accommodation was the likely result of committing further offences.

Yesterday's ruling clarifies the law for housing authorities all over the country grappling with their duty to offer accommodation to homeless people.

But lawyers acting on behalf of paedophiles fear that it could add to the dangers of a "lynch law" mentality developing as the debate continues on whether the public should have access to a paedophile register so that they can identify child molesters living near their homes.

The ruling, which could also have implications for former prisoners generally, came under immediate fire from penal reform groups. Paul Cavadino, chair of the Penal Affairs Consortium, which represents 29 criminal justice bodies, said that the ruling could put the public more at risk, as prisoners released without accommodation were more than twice as likely to reoffend.

"It appears to deprive any ex-prisoner who reoffends of the right to housing on the ground that he has become intentionally homeless, which is extremely disturbing," he said. "Giving housing authorities a blanket discretion to refuse housing to ex-prisoners will increase — not decrease — the risk to the public."

He said that it was important to remember that paedophiles refused accommodation did not disappear: "They move elsewhere, typically to anonymous bedsits, but still in towns and cities full of children." The measures which could do most to prevent reoffending included extending intensive supervision and treatment programmes, he said. "But it is much more difficult to treat people not in settled accommodation."

Jan Luba, counsel for R, had argued that it was unreasonable for the council to have expected him to keep up the tenancy when he could not afford the rent. If the council were right, it would mean that any council tenant jailed for a period which meant they could not keep up rent payments would face homelessness because of inability to pay.

CORRECTION

Occupiers of second homes have needed a TV licence since last March, but some people living in caravans no longer need one (report, February 12). The effect on BBC revenue is likely to be negligible.

A 2lb tent peg identical to the one used by the murderer as his victim painted a patio door

Schoolgirl died in frenzy of blows from 18in spike

By Emma Wilkins

DETECTIVES seeking the killer of the schoolgirl Billie-Jo Jenkins yesterday displayed a metal spike identical to the 18 in tent peg used to bludgeon her. The weapon is still being examined by forensic scientists.

Detective Superintendent Jeremy Paine, who is leading the investigation, said that the 13-year-old girl was hit more than once with the spike, which weighs about 2lb. "It was a frenzied attack," he said.

Sussex police have asked criminal psychologists at the National Crime Faculty at Bramshill, Hampshire, to prepare a profile of the murderer. "I am confident that they will be able to give us some help," Mr Paine said.

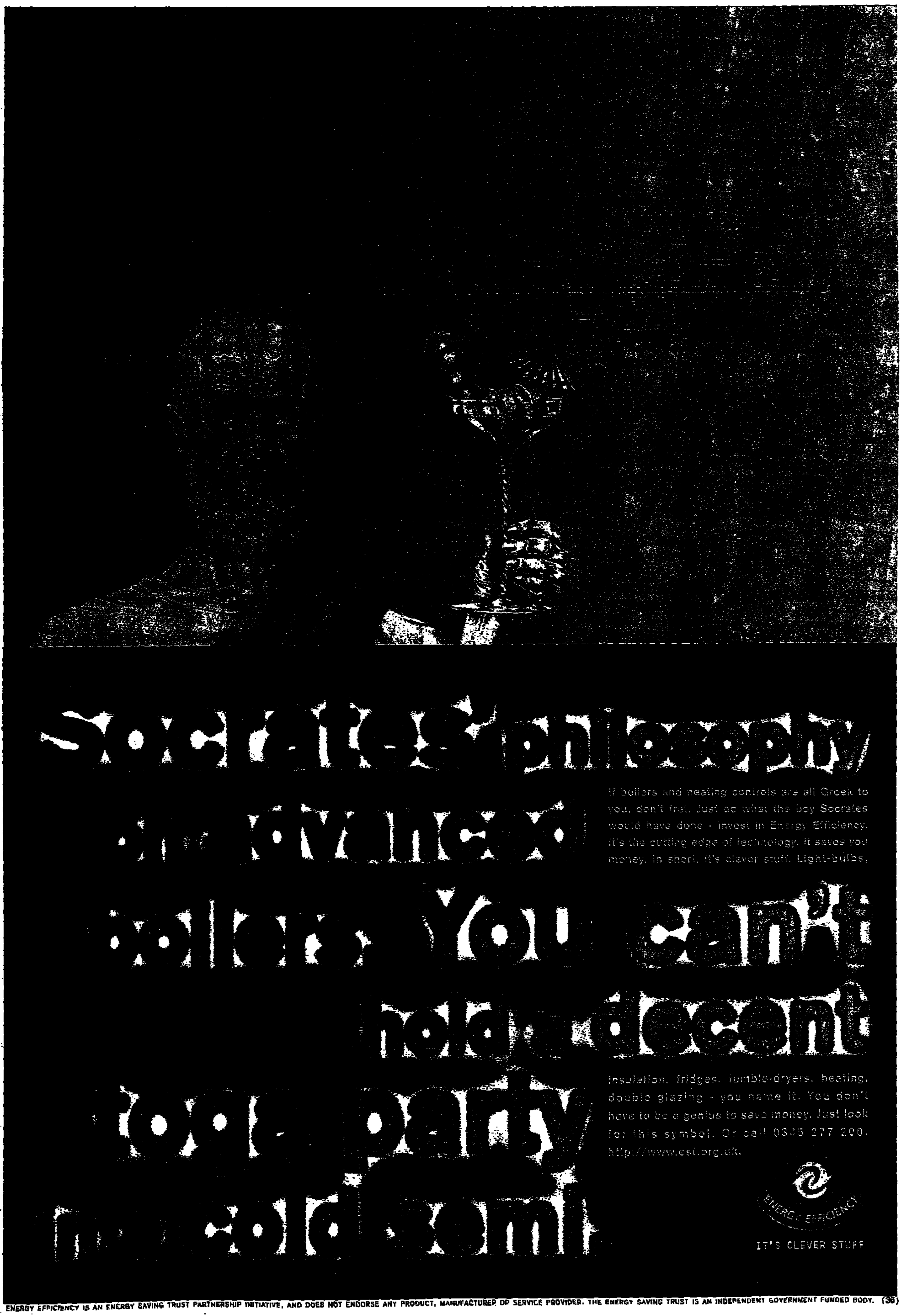
His team has issued a computerised image of a man seen leaving the Jenkins's house at Hastings on Boxing Day or the day after. The man, 6ft tall, in his early twenties and wearing black gloves and a black woolly hat, does not match the description of a prowler seen near the house in the weeks before the killing.

A computer image of a 6ft man seen at Christmas leaving the Hastings home of Billie-Jo Jenkins

Pupils at Helenswood Comprehensive School for Girls, Hastings, which Billie-Jo attended, held a memorial service yesterday. Many of the 167 girls in her year wept as they stood in silent tribute to the girl they had elected as their representative on the school council. A memorial service for the whole school will be held later. Pupils will be asked to submit ideas for a permanent memorial to Billie-Jo in the school grounds.

The Rev Roger Gray, minister of the Baptist church which the family attended, said that he had spoken to Sion and Lois Jenkins, Billie-Jo's legal guardians. "I feel they would want to look for forgiveness. We teach that — we don't take revenge," he said.

The family have worshipped at Halton Baptist Church since moving to Hastings in 1993. Billie-Jo, who was killed as she painted patio doors last Saturday afternoon, was considering baptism by immersion, Mr Gray said. "She was a lovely girl. She liked looking after young people. She was full of energy and was beginning to think about being baptised."



If boilers and heating controls are all Greek to you, don't fret. Just do what the boy Socrates would have done - invest in Energy Efficiency. It's the cutting edge of technology. It saves you money. In short, it's clever stuff. Light-bulbs, insulation, fridges, tumble-dryers, heating, double glazing - you name it. You don't have to be a genius to save money. Just look for this symbol. Or call 0345 277 200. http://www.est.org.uk.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS AN ENERGY SAVING TRUST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE, AND DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY PRODUCT, MANUFACTURER OR SERVICE PROVIDER. THE ENERGY SAVING TRUST IS AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT FUNDED BODY. (38)

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Patients support Dr John who wants to be Joanna

By Carol Midgley

Dr John Browne: will return as Joanna

A GP has sent letters to 15,000 patients telling them he is to have a sex-change operation and wishes to be called Joanna when he returns to work.

John Browne, a divorced father of four, has the full backing of the St Bartholomew's Medical Centre, Oxford, where he has worked for 15 years, and of the British Medical Association.

In the letters, which patients received yesterday, Dr Browne, 46, who has been undergoing hormone treatment, explains that he is a transsexual who has suffered a "prolonged battle" with his feelings for many years.

"There is a condition which goes to the very root of a person's identity," he writes. "This condition is present from birth and means that an individual's 'brain sex' (how they think) is opposite to the physical sex suggested by their body. It can only be resolved by a transformation to the physical appearance of a female. For the next few weeks I shall be taking leave of absence from St Bartholomew's Medical Centre and returning afterwards as Dr Joanna Browne."

Staff at the fundholding practice in the Cowley area of Oxford said that, so far, patients had been largely supportive of the GP. Only one, a man, had asked to change to another doctor. Other patients are being offered information leaflets on transsexuality or discussions with management at the centre.

Some patients said they had noticed Dr Browne's appearance start to change a year ago. Dr Seymour J.G. Spencer, 76, a retired psychiatrist, said he and his wife Margaret, who had been patients for 15 years, regarded it as a private matter that would make no difference to them.

"We did notice that he had started to wear make up and had dyed his hair and grown it long so it was clear there was a problem," Dr Spencer said. "But it will make no difference to him professionally. He will be the same person and have the same brain. He is an excellent doctor, very erudite and very compassionate."

The senior partner at the practice, Dr Roger Burne, said: "He has been a good colleague and friend for a great number of years and I shall continue to support him. He has become aware of a deep conviction that he should have been born female. This conclusion has meant facing some very difficult personal and professional issues.

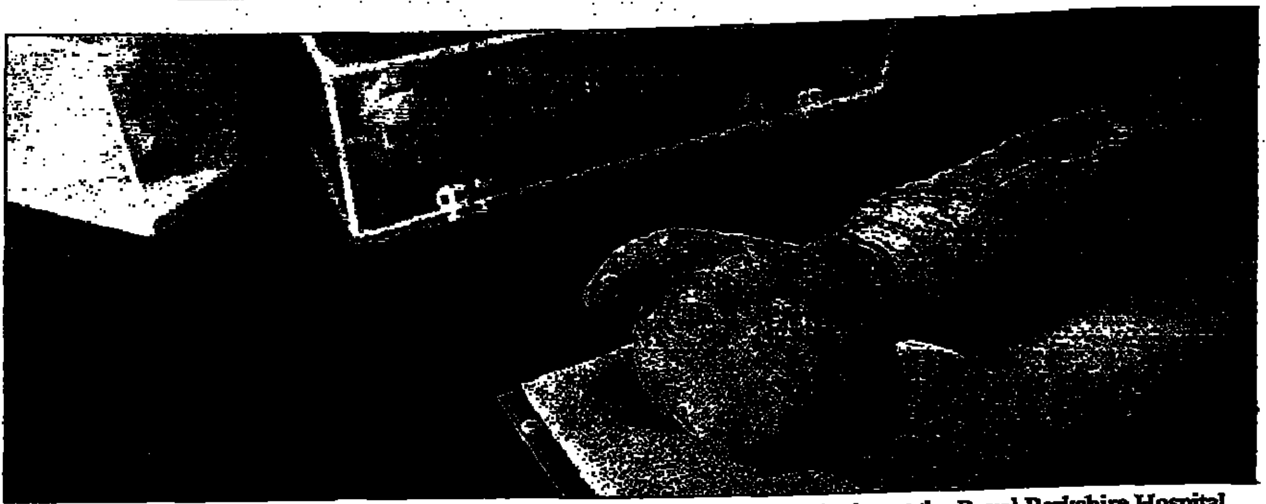
"There is no evidence to show anyone leaving the practice because of this. Those who know about it have been nothing but supportive."

A spokesman for the BMA, which yesterday installed a public relations adviser in the clinic, said: "Gender reassignment remains a rarely performed procedure. Because of its rarity, it attracts a great deal of attention and speculation which can be both stressful and intrusive for the people involved.

"The BMA would want to see the individual's decision to proceed with gender assignment respected and their privacy safeguarded. The BMA believes every doctor should have the right to be open about their sexuality and gender identity at work without fear of discrimination."

One patient, Tony Moore, 47, said: "It will make no difference to me. He is an excellent doctor. I just hope he finds personal happiness."

A 28-year-old woman patient added: "I noticed Dr Browne was becoming more effeminate. I thought he must be gay. But now I know he is having a sex change, it all makes sense. I think it's a very brave thing for him to do. He always looks very happy and always seems to be dashing about the surgery in good spirits."


The mummified animals were X-rayed for the Museum of Reading by radiologists at the Royal Berkshire Hospital

X-rays let cat out of the bag after 2,500 years

Exposed: the cat that was alive in about 500 BC

THEY looked like something the cat brought in, but three mystery objects sent to a hospital's radiology department for identification were rather more historic. The mummified remains were actually cats from ancient Egypt, all preserved to share the afterlife with their owners 2,500 years ago.

Curators at the Museum of Reading approached the Royal Berkshire Hospital after deciding to restore the fragile artefacts, which had been at the museum since the 1930s. It took the radiologist Jim Chorley five minutes to identify them all. He said: "I've never X-rayed a mummy before. They are certainly less trouble than humans. They keep still."

Celia Lincoln, a museum spokeswoman, said: "We decided that we would have them X-rayed to make certain what they were. We were pretty sure that two were cats but we were not at all sure what the third was. They have suffered a lot of wear and tear over the centuries and they are taken out to schools and shown to children."

Philip Wickens, secretary of the Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society, said that mummification of cats was extremely common: "Cats were sacred and their owners often took them with them after they died. There's a graveyard in Saqqra, near Cairo, that has tens of thousands of them. Unfortunately, the Victorians didn't have the same regard for them when they started bringing back items from Egypt. They used these mummified cats as ballast on the ships and even as fuel for boilers and furnaces. When they got back to England, the mummies often ended up as material for paper or fertiliser."

Branson's trains will take years to get up to speed

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

RICHARD BRANSON said yesterday that it would be up to five years before passengers noticed major improvements in the West Coast main line rail service after Virgin won a 15-year franchise to run the London to Glasgow route.

Mr Branson, who has pledged to spend £600 million on a fleet of 140mph tilting trains to cut journey times, admitted that it would take time to turn around the underfunded line. "Our pledge is to turn this into the best railway in Europe, but it will not be achieved overnight. We are going to be putting seat-back videos in, better food, better drink and better service."

Critics of rail privatisation said the disruption caused by the sell-off had delayed the £2 billion upgrading of the 400-mile line by a decade. British Rail was granted funding in the 1993 Budget but the work was cancelled because of privatisation. It will now be carried out by Railtrack. The line, which was last upgraded between 1968 and 1972, has since become infamous for unreliability and delays.

About a fifth of its services are more than ten minutes late, a record that Mr Branson hopes to improve within a year. Journey times are slower than they were in the early 1970s because of speed restrictions on the route.

The new tilting trains should start running in 2002 but they will not be able to operate at full speed until 2004, when Railtrack's upgrading of the line is complete. Journey times between London and Glasgow will then be reduced to around 3hr 50min compared with the current 5-5½hr. London to Manchester will eventually be reduced to 1hr 45min compared with 2½hr now.

Virgin won the franchise, its second, with a highly aggressive bid that will save the Government at least £1.5 billion of subsidy. It will pay the Government more than £900 million in "rail tax" for operating rights over the life of the franchise.

To make the franchise profitable Virgin plans to increase average loadings from 55 per cent to at least 65 per cent, and increase revenue by 30 per cent by 2000. Mr Branson said the improvements would render the lucrative London to Manchester air route obsolete and would clear millions of cars from the M6. The rail route currently has about 6 per cent of passenger traffic between London and Glasgow, the airlines 4 per cent and the roads 90 per cent.

ScotRail is now the only unsold former BR network.

Magnus Linklater, page 20

Branson: said he would spend £600m on trains

Railtrack 'has left stations to rot'

By Jonathan Prynn

DOZENS of crumbling train stations and hundreds of miles of track have been "left to rot" by Railtrack since its privatisation last year, a rail pressure group said yesterday.

The company, which today unveils details of its ten-year investment programme, was accused of putting profits before passengers and underspending on essential maintenance by £750 million. Jonathan Bray, spokesman for Save Our Railways, said the investment failure had condemned passengers to "disgusting, dangerous stations as well as slow and unreliable journeys".

He added: "All regular rail users know that you don't have to travel far to find rundown stations, speed restrictions and weeds and litter all over the place. Railtrack have spent their first three years putting their friends in the City before the interests of passengers."

In a dossier of the network's worst and most neglected stations and routes, Save Our Railways identified Britain's top ten rail blackspots as: South Greenford, west London; Wolverton near Milton Keynes, Northamptonshire; Bournemouth; Sheringham, Norfolk; Bridgwater, Somerset; Bugle, Cornwall; St Erth, Cornwall; Par station, Cornwall; Barnes Bridge, west London; and Walthamstow Queen's Road, northeast London.

"The best thing about a building society account is you can always take your money out and put it in a PEP."

THE MAN FROM THE PRU

Have you got all your savings in a building society deposit account? You shouldn't be too happy. Savings rates are the lowest for 122 years and there's still tax to pay on your interest.

With a PEP there's no tax and over the past five years you could have got 5 times the return of a building society.

Of course, it's important to keep some of your funds as cash you can get at. And Prudential can help here too, as we [illegible]

[illegible]

However, [illegible] the opportunity [illegible]

If you'd like to know more [illegible] Independent Financial Adviser. [illegible]

PRUDENTIAL

PRU 230

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of units, and the income from them may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed, and the investor may not get back the amount they invested. Changes in rates of exchange between currencies may cause the value of the investment to diminish or increase. The above is based upon our understanding of current taxation, legislation, and Inland Revenue practice, all of which are liable to change. The levels and bases of tax reliefs from taxation can change. Their value depends on individual circumstances. With a building society account your capital is secure and readily accessible. 'Prudential' is a trading name of Prudential Unit Trusts Limited which is an authorised person whose conduct of investment business is regulated by SIB and IMRO. The company is registered in England and Wales under number 1796126. Registered Office at 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH. For your protection calls may be recorded.

Affordable Healthcare

FREEPHONE QUOTING REF B11/DL21

0500 66 99 66

FOR YOUR PROTECTION CALLS WILL USUALLY BE RECORDED AND RANDOMLY MONITORED

Lifetime from HealthCare

Legal & General

Camelot expansion plans condemned as irresponsible

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

SECRET plans to allow the National Lottery jackpot to be won by overseas players and to enable people to play the game on their television sets provoked outrage yesterday.

The proposals by the National Lottery operator Camelot, outlined in a leaked memo, include a link-up with or takeover of the pools company Vernons to enable people to play the pools using lottery terminals in shops. The company is also considering installing hundreds of video-game machines in pubs and supermarkets to allow people to play the casino game Keno.

Under another proposal, Camelot would float on the stock market and the company would set up a new company to run its overseas ventures.

Camelot is under pressure to raise more cash for good causes if it is to stand a chance of renewing its licence in three years. The document outlines company strategy as it struggles to increase its turnover.

Dr Emanuel Moran, a consultant psychiatrist and chairman of the National Council on Gambling, described the proposals to introduce Keno in public places as irresponsible. "The turnover of the game is very rapid, with numbers drawn every ten minutes or so, and the liklihood of addiction is much higher than with a weekly draw. It should be in licensed premises only."

The casino game Keno, considered by Camelot

Dr Moran added that linking lottery games to pools operators and making them available on television helped to create a spiral of demand for addictive games. The plans undermined the official lottery guidelines, which stated that the lottery should be a "tasteful and acceptable" way of winning money, he said.

Jack Cunningham, the Shadow Heritage Secretary, said that selling National Lottery tickets in other countries might destroy public confidence in the game. Plans by Camelot to link with the satellite television company BSkyB — 40 per cent owned by News International, the ultimate owner of *The Times* — risked increasing lottery addiction. It is understood the plan would use BSkyB's subscriber system to enable people to pay for tickets for Camelot's existing online game or to pay for entry into a new screen-based game.

Minutes of Camelot's brainstorming session also disclose that Peter Davis, the Director-General of Oflot, "is sympathetic to overseas exploitation". A proposal from Peter Murphy, Camelot's finance director, that the company endeavour "to bring the director-general on board", was approved by the meeting.

Mr Davis was not available for comment yesterday. His deputy, John Stoker, denied that the expression "on board" implied an improperly close relationship. "The words show that Camelot recognise that Mr Davis is a firm and unavoidable object on the path to change," he said.

He added that although Camelot's licence allowed it to sell lottery tickets anywhere in the European Community, local laws in European countries prevented it from doing so. The company would need approval to sell tickets in countries outside the EC.

Jim Allen and map showing a rectangular Atlantis bordering Lake Poopo in Bolivia

RAF map expert elevates Atlantis to Bolivian plain

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE lost city of Atlantis was sited in the middle of Bolivia, according to a former RAF map expert and amateur archaeologist.

The island city, which Plato said disappeared under the waves after being devastated by floods and earthquakes in 9,600 BC, has previously been placed at locations including the Straits of Gibraltar and north of Crete. According to Jim Allen, however, a plain in Bolivia fits the bill.

Mr Allen, who lives in Torquay, trained as a photographic interpreter with the RAF and is an expert on ancient measurements. He has searched the globe looking for contours and features that match Plato's description of Atlantis. His chosen location for the fabled city is the basin-shaped *altiplano*.

Mr Allen believes Atlantis, an island continent "encircled by mountains", was nowhere near a real sea but an inland one, Lake Poopo, in the shadow of the Andes.

Mr Allen also points to Egyptian and Greek reports that the city was plated in gold, silver, bronze, tin and a mysterious metal called "orichalcum". "All these metals are found around Lake Poopo," he said. "Numerous gold and copper mines still exist there. The silver-rich mountain of Potosi was a great source of wealth for the Spanish empire and is still a major source of tin. Even the 'unknown' orichalcum is found there. It is a natural alloy of gold and copper found only in the Andes."

The beauty of the site, according to Mr Allen, whose findings are published in *The Geographical Magazine*, is that the size and shape of the plain can be linked to Plato's description of a rectangular area. The Greek philospher said he had been told that the area was 3,000 by 2,000 stades, an old Greek measuring unit. Mr Allen's chosen site is exactly half that, measuring some 150 miles by 100. He believes the figures, passed from Egyptian to Greek and then to English, must have become garbled in the translation.

He admits that many may smirk at the idea of Atlantis in a country more noted for its cocaine exports. But recent evidence had shown that the ancient Egyptians used tobacco and cocaine in the mummification process.

"They had to get the cocaine from somehwere. The idea of a cross-Atlantic link and trade between the people of Atlantis and the Egyptians now looks less unlikely." According to the Greeks, Atlantis was destroyed at a time when it was said to be at war with Egypt.

Leading article, page 21

Quick draws make Keno addictive

By Robin Young

KENO is a form of televised bingo which can be played simultaneously in thousands of clubs, pubs and even supermarkets. Critics claim the game, which is popular in Australia and the United States, is highly addictive because it can be played every five minutes.

Players select numbers and purchase tickets as they do for the National Lottery, though in most forms of Keno the numbers run from one to 80. Players can choose how many numbers they are aiming to match. The more they choose, the greater their potential winnings.

The winning numbers are computer-generated and instantly displayed on television monitors at all participating outlets. The tickets can be barcoded and then reinserted in the vending machine after each draw to see if they are winners.

The Conservative peer Lord Mancroft, chairman of Camelot's rival Inter Lotto, applied for a licence to introduce Keno to Britain 18 months ago. He calculated that the game could attract millions of British players with half-hourly draws offering prizes of up to £100,000.

Camelot's plan is even more ambitious, with £50 million earmarked to launch the video lottery game, providing a draw every ten minutes.

Anti-gambling campaigners fear that Keno might encourage addictive gambling. Sam Weren, a lottery expert, said: "Keno is like playing a lottery with a one-armed bandit. There are quick results, and an instant opportunity to gamble again."

Mark Griffiths of the Forum on Young People and Gambling said Keno would inevitably lead to an increase in the number of "problem gamblers". An American sociologist has calculated that problem gamblers in the US account for 4 to 6 per cent of Keno players, but contribute at least a quarter of lottery takings.

MATHS and ENGLISH
A* results
HOME VIDEOS with books for...
100%
7-10 years
Basic MATHS
Basic ENGLISH
11-14 years
Number & Algebra
G.C.S.E.
Maths - Inter & Highest Tiers
A-Lev Maths
Agreed Common Core
Expert teaching by Dr. A.K. Hannaby B.Sc., Ph.D., F.I.M.A., C.Math.
For FREE brochure/price-list tel: 01785 713560 or return slip to:
Cap & Gown Series, P.O. Box 14, Penkridge, Stafford, ST19 5SQ
Please tick: 7-10s ☐ 11-14s ☐ G.C.S.E. ☐ A-Lev ☐
Mr/Mrs/Miss: ____________________
Address: ____________________
____
Postcode: ____________
SEND FOR FREE BROCHURE
TMS 20/02
Your details will not be disclosed to any third party

Dixons
SALE
LAST 4 DAYS
SAVE UP TO £120 ON CD HI-FI
SCOOP DEAL
HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS
AKAI
QX-5
ULTRA COMPACT CD MICRO HI-FI
- AM/FM stereo radio.
- Bass boost.
- Programmable CD.
- Repeat track facility.
LARGER STORES
Dixons Deal £99.99
SONY
MHC771
MULTIPLAY CD MINI HI-FI
- 2x45 watts (RMS) power output.
- Plays up to 3 CDs.
- Exclusive 'loop' function.
- Electronic preset equaliser.
Was £349.99. £299.99.
SAVE £70
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
Dixons Deal £279.99
SPREAD YOUR COSTS WITH 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION
*Account is interest free if repaid in full before the 18th monthly repayment. [illegible] Cash price £479.99, 20% deposit of £96.00, loan amount £383.99.
0% INTEREST OR 29.5% APR
Pay 18 monthly payments of £12.98 and the balance of £350.35 before (or with) the 18th monthly payment. (Total amount £479.99 APR 0%)
48 monthly payments of £[illegible] (Total amount £[illegible] APR 29.5%)
Minimum deposit 10% on loans over £1000. Credit offer subject to status when you open a Dixons Advantage Account, written credit quotations available on request from: Dept IFD/MK, Maylands Avenue, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP2 7TG. (Applicants must be 18 or over, 21 in Northern Ireland).
CHECK MANAGERS SPECIALS IN-STORE
PCs • PERSONAL STEREOS • CAMERAS • TVs • VIDEO RECORDERS • PRINTERS • CAMCORDERS • VIDEO RECORDERS • HI-FI • PERSONAL STEREOS • CAMERAS • TVs
Dixons [illegible] EXTRA £10 OFF ALL MANAGERS SPECIALS OVER £[illegible]
OFFER MUST END MONDAY
[illegible] EXCHANGE AND [illegible] FULLY GUARANTEED
One voucher per purchase. Not for use with other offers. Offer ends Monday 24th February 1997. Branch use only.
DISCOUNT USING CODE 03 OR 11
CD MICRO HI-FI - SAVE UP TO £30
MATSUI MCH550
ULTRA COMPACT CD MICRO HI-FI
- Programmable CD.
- Bass boost.
- Headphone socket.
- AM/FM stereo radio.
Was £79.99.
EXCLUSIVE
SAVE £10
Dixons Deal £69.99
Exclusive To DSG Retail Ltd
MATSUI MCH650
ULTRA COMPACT CD MICRO HI-FI
- Digital tuner with presets.
- Remote control.
- Fully programmable CD.
Was £119.99.
EXCLUSIVE
SAVE £30
SALE PRICE £89.99
Exclusive To DSG Retail Ltd
aiwa LCX100
ULTRA COMPACT CD MICRO HI-FI
- Digital tuner with presets.
- Preset equaliser.
- Programmable CD.
- Super T-bass.
- Remote control.
TOP BRAND MICRO UNDER £150
Dixons Deal £149.99
JVC UXA4
ULTRA COMPACT CD MICRO HI-FI
- Active hyperbass.
- Full auto-reverse.
- 14 watts power output.
- Full auto-reverse cassette deck.
Was £279.99. £269.99.
SAVE £30
Dixons Deal £249.99
aiwa LCX600
ULTRA COMPACT CD MICRO HI-FI
- Radio Data System.
- Surround Sound.
- Full auto-reverse.
- Remote control.
LARGER STORES
RADIO DATA SYSTEM
Dixons Deal £249.99
DENON DC1
MULTIPLAY CD MICRO HI-FI
- Plays up to 6 CDs.
- Auto-reverse.
- Digital tuner.
- Preset equaliser.
- Auto-reverse cassette deck.
LARGER STORES
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
Dixons Deal £379.99
CD MINI HI-FI - SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £120
MATSUI MHF-600
MULTIPLAY CD MINI HI-FI
- Plays up to 3 CDs.
- AM/FM tuner.
- Single cassette deck.
- CD-to-tape editing.
Was £99.99.
EXCLUSIVE
SAVE £10
SALE PRICE £89.99
Exclusive To DSG Retail Ltd
PIONEER N560M
MULTIPLAY CD MINI HI-FI
- 2 x 70 watts (RMS) power output.
- Plays up to 25 CDs.
- Digital tuner with presets.
- Twin auto-reverse cassette decks.
Was £449.99. £399.99.
LARGER STORES
SAVE £100
Dixons Deal £349.99
aiwa NSX-AV90
MULTIPLAY PRO-LOGIC CD MINI HI-FI
- 2x100 watts (RMS) power output.
- Plays up to 3 CDs.
- RDS digital tuner.
Was £499.99. £479.99.
LARGER STORES
SAVE £30
6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
SALE PRICE £469.99
SAVE A TOTAL OF £120 WITH VOUCHER
aiwa NSX AVH8
DOLBY PRO-LOGIC MULTIPLAY CD MINI HI-FI
- Plays up to 3 CDs.
- RDS digital tuner.
Was £599.99.
In-store Price £499.99.
18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*
VOUCHER PRICE £479.99
One voucher per purchase. Not for use with other offers. Offer ends Tuesday 25th February 1997. Branch use only – discount using code 4 (Head Office offer)
Dixons DISCOUNT VOUCHER
Dixons
HURRY SALE MUST END THIS WEEKEND

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Libraries urged to work day and night for high-tech future

By Ian Murray, Community Correspondent

LIBRARIES should open during evenings and Sundays, *according to the first government* report on the service for more than 30 years. It concludes that they are part of the entertainment world and must compete by providing high-tech reference sections and *low-brow books outside usual* working hours.

Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, believes that libraries are the key element in bringing new technology to the people. Sixty per *cent of British* adults use a library at least once a year, but the report expects they will become more popular if recommendations are followed.

Opening when most people are not at work was an *essential part of the strategy*, with a librarian no longer likely to be working from 9am to 5pm. No extra money was being made available for this, but staff could be asked to work late shifts if fewer were *on duty during* the normal day, while volunteers could be recruited for unsocial hours.

Public libraries cost £639 million in 1995, of which £109 was spent on books and other materials. The abandon*ment of the price-fixing* Net Book Agreement is expected to make it possible for them to buy books more cheaply. The review found that the original *concept of the* British public library had altered, from high seriousness towards entertainment. Popular books had to be stocked, but this was a useful way of luring people into the habit of reading. Stressing *that* free book-lending remained the key element, the review said that this should serve as a base for introducing new technology.

Funding for equipment will come initially from a "challenge" fund; the Wolfson Foundation has provided £3 million to add to £6 million set aside for refurbishment over the next three years. After the millennium celebrations, money from the lottery will be available. The Heritage Fund is to provide cash for libraries with outstanding collections of special books or archive material, or *those* in important historical buildings.

Ian Sproat, the Heritage Minister, said: "Technology *is* changing so fast that plans for introducing new systems need to be flexible enough to take account of both the changes and their cost and the need for libraries to play the fullest *appropriate role.*" *He* has asked a working group set up under the Library and Information Commission to report by July on how libraries in England *should respond* to the challenge of new technology.

Starting next April, libraries will be required to publish annual performance targets, and submit plans to the Heri*tage Department* for evaluation. They will be encouraged to form more partnerships with the private sector, contracting out services and seeking trust status. However, the Government has backed away from compulsory competitive tendering.

The Library Association said it was heartened to see the Government was embracing the vision of libraries as the hub of information and imagination in the next century. However, Royston Futter, of the pressure group Library Campaign, said: "The report is facile. We are told we should open for longer hours, but the reason they are closed *is that libraries don't have the* funds to stay open."

☐ *Reading the Future: A Review of Public Libraries in England* is available free from: Libraries Division, De*partment* of National Heritage, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH

SIMON WALKER

The Prince, accompanied by his private detective, aboard the traditional dragon boat crewed by Bengali women in Shadwell basin yesterday

Prince waives lifejacket rules on Docklands boat trip

By Alan Hamilton

UNDETERRED by seasonal squalls, the Prince of Wales took a short boat trip to Bengal on a visit to Docklands yesterday. The Prince, who declined to don a lifejacket, sat in a traditional dragon boat crewed by Bengali women, as an introduction to his official trip to Bangladesh next week.

***He took the precaution,* before boarding amid gusts of wind approaching 40mph, of painting in the eyes of the colourful figurehead on the prow. The tradition, of Chinese origin, is said to guarantee good fortune and a safe passage.**

The Prince was visiting the Shadwell Basin Project, a Prince's Trust project which offers the chance of water sports in the once-thriving commercial dock to disadvantaged local young people.

***His two-day visit to Bangladesh* is a prelude to the Queen's visit to the Indian sub-continent in the autumn to mark the 50th anniversary of independence for India and Pakistan; Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, is the one area of former British India that the monarch will not be visiting.**

The Prince will spend much of his time in the Sylhet region, homeland of the majority of the Bengali community which now forms the domi*nant ethnic group in* the east London borough of Tower Hamlets. The borough is said to be home to at least *24 mother tongues besides English, of* which Sylheti is among the most common.

Bengalis are among the main beneficiaries of the Shadwell Basin Project, which is funded by the Prince's Trust and by the St Katharine and Shadwell Trust, a community grant-making charity set up in 1990 with a £3.5 million donation from the local authority and News International, owners of *The Times* and a major local employer.

Gene spray could ease asthma pain

By Nick Nuttall

SCIENTISTS believe they have found a new treatment for asthma sufferers. The technique stops airborne particles from causing severe tightening of the lungs, which leads to acute breathing difficulties.

The American researchers, who tested their treatment on *rabbits, blocked some of the* most damaging effects of such particles as pollen, house dustmite faeces and air pollution.

The technique hinges on an emerging form of genetic therapy called *anti-sense DNA* therapy. Genetically engineered material, given to the rabbits as an inhalation spray, interferes with the production of a protein called adenosine, which causes muscles in the lungs to contract.

Studies indicate that the lungs of asthmatics have far *higher numbers of adenosine* receptors than normal people. The new technique switches off the genes that make the receptors. Without receptors, the protein cannot tell the nervous system to squeeze tight the lungs. The therapy, which is published in *Nature*, has been developed at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

Professor Peter Barnes, of the National Heart and Lung Institute at the Royal *Brompton Hospital, London*, and an adviser to the National Asthma Campaign, said the therapy was so promising that it should proceed to clinical trials. If it proved safe, it would need to be used daily. *The technique could also be* developed to block other steps in an asthma attack.

Professor Barnes said that there were three million asthma sufferers in Britain: "Ten per cent of children and between 5 and 10 per cent of adults in Britain are reckoned to be asthmatic.

"*There are 2,000 deaths* a year, which makes it one of the commonest causes of death in young people. Asthma accounts for 14 per cent of prescription costs."

WHO MAKES BUYING A MOBILE PHONE EASY?
THINK THE LINK!
SALE
HURRY! ENDS MONDAY

2 EASY WAYS TO BUY A ONE 2 ONE PHONE

BUY A MOBILE FROM ONLY £9.99* & PAY MONTHLY LINE RENTAL AND A ONE-OFF CONNECTION FEE

OR

BUY A PACKAGE INCLUDING A YEAR'S LINE RENTAL & CONNECTION FEE AND SAVE £45^

PLUS 5 FREE CDs
CHOOSE FROM 150 TOP TITLES

Nortel m900
Digital Mobile Phone
- Up to 90 minutes talktime/ 23 hours standby
- 99 name and number memory
- Last 10 number redial
- Call timer

HALF PRICE
SALE PRICE £49.99* Was £99.99
Plus £35 SIM Card Connection

Motorola Flare Digital Mobile Phone
- 99 number memory
- Last 10 number redial
- One touch dialling

£9.99*

Nokia 2146 Digital Mobile Phone
- Up to 80 minutes talktime/ 23 hours standby
- 125 name and number memory

SAVE £30 SALE PRICE £99.99* Was £129.99

Motorola
Graphite Package
- Up to 110 minutes talktime/16 hours standby
- 99 name and number memory
- Fax and data compatible
- Last 10 number redial

PACKAGE PRICE £199.99†
INCLUDES CONNECTION

You'll make a far better choice at The Link Sale!

Visit any Link store and you'll discover a huge range of mobile phones and all the latest communication products – it's the biggest choice in the High Street.

Our friendly, helpful staff will help you make the right purchase to suit your needs and your pocket.

With fantastic new offers and bargains every day in The Link Sale, why go anywhere else!

OVER 80 STORES NATIONWIDE

FREEPHONE 0500 222 666
FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE AND TO ORDER DIRECT
Why not visit our Web Site at: www.the-link.co.uk

THE BIGGEST CHOICE Choose from the largest range of communication products in the UK – mobile phones, faxes, pagers, telephones – plus organisers and palmtop computers.

IMPARTIAL EXPERT ADVICE Our expert staff are specially trained in all communication products and will be happy to help you make the choice that's right for you.

THE LINK PRICE PROMISE If you find exactly the same package cheaper locally within 7 days, we will refund the difference.

MOBILE PHONE COVER Comprehensive insurance available offering cover for everything from accidental damage to theft and call cloning. Ask in-store for details.

FREE CHOICE GUARANTEE For a small one-off fee of £15 when you make your purchase, you can be assured that should your circumstances change, you can return your phone and cancel your airtime.

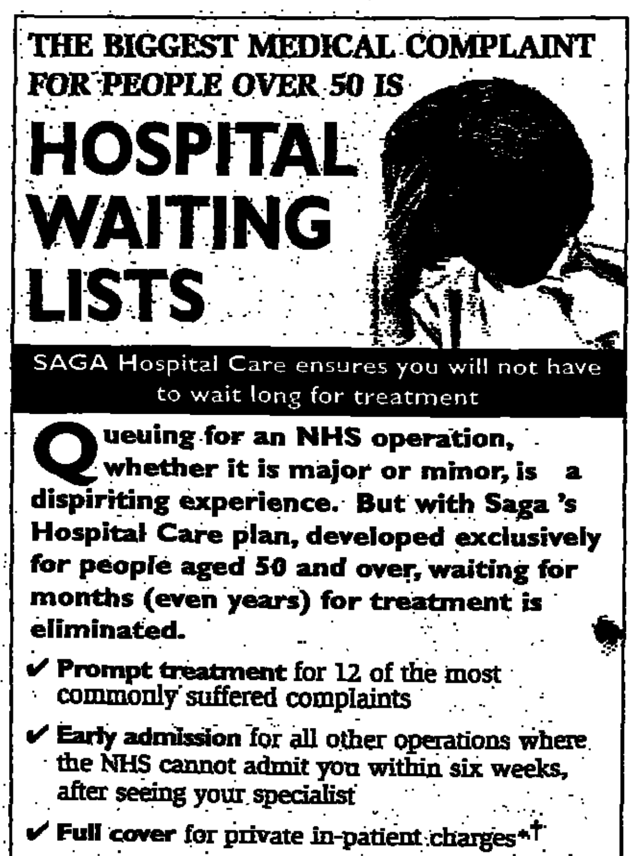
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE If you are not completely satisfied, return your purchase for a refund within 14 days for mobile phones, 7 days for all other products.

one 2 one

Now with improved coverage - 80% of GB population
- Free local weekend calls**
- Free answering service on all tariffs
- Per-second billing

The Link

*When you connect to a One 2 One Digital Monthly tariff. **Excludes calls to mobile phones and premium rate numbers. Not available on Diamond tariff. ^When compared to monthly option of £17.50 per month plus £35 connection fee. †When you connect to the All-in-One package. Connection to mobile phones is subject to status. A deposit may be required. Ask in-store for details.



THE BIGGEST MEDICAL COMPLAINT FOR PEOPLE OVER 50 IS

HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS

SAGA Hospital Care ensures you will not have to wait long for treatment

Queuing for an NHS operation, whether it is major or minor, is a dispiriting experience. But with Saga 's Hospital Care plan, developed exclusively for people aged 50 and over, waiting for months (even years) for treatment is eliminated.

✓ **Prompt treatment** for 12 of the most commonly suffered complaints
✓ **Early admission** for all other operations where the NHS cannot admit you within six weeks, after seeing your specialist
✓ **Full cover** for private in-patient charges*†
✓ **Guaranteed acceptance** from age 50 with no upper age limit and no medical required
✓ **Medical conditions** that occurred before you join may be covered after 2 years*
✓ **Automatic tax relief** on premiums if you are aged 60 or over
✓ **FREE** luggage set when you enrol

*Subject to policy conditions
†Limits do apply to some out-patient treatments

SAGA Hospital Care is underwritten by Prime Health

For a free quotation and information pack, phone our dedicated Customer Care Team at Prime Health

01483 553 553
Ref No.M49208LS

SAGA Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about other Saga products and services and may pass on your details to other Saga companies for this purpose.

Ariston puts *an alarm clock* in the refrigerator.

(You bring enjoyment to your home).

TESTA INT'L

As of today,
there's a new Ariston idea:
the decorative refrigerator.
The entire range of 10 different
pictorial designs, already
on sale throughout Europe,
is on exhibition at the
Cologne Fair from 18th February.
As pretty as a picture,
as cool as a cucumber,
it's a pleasure to use whilst
making more of your home.
Look into one today.

http://www.merloni.com

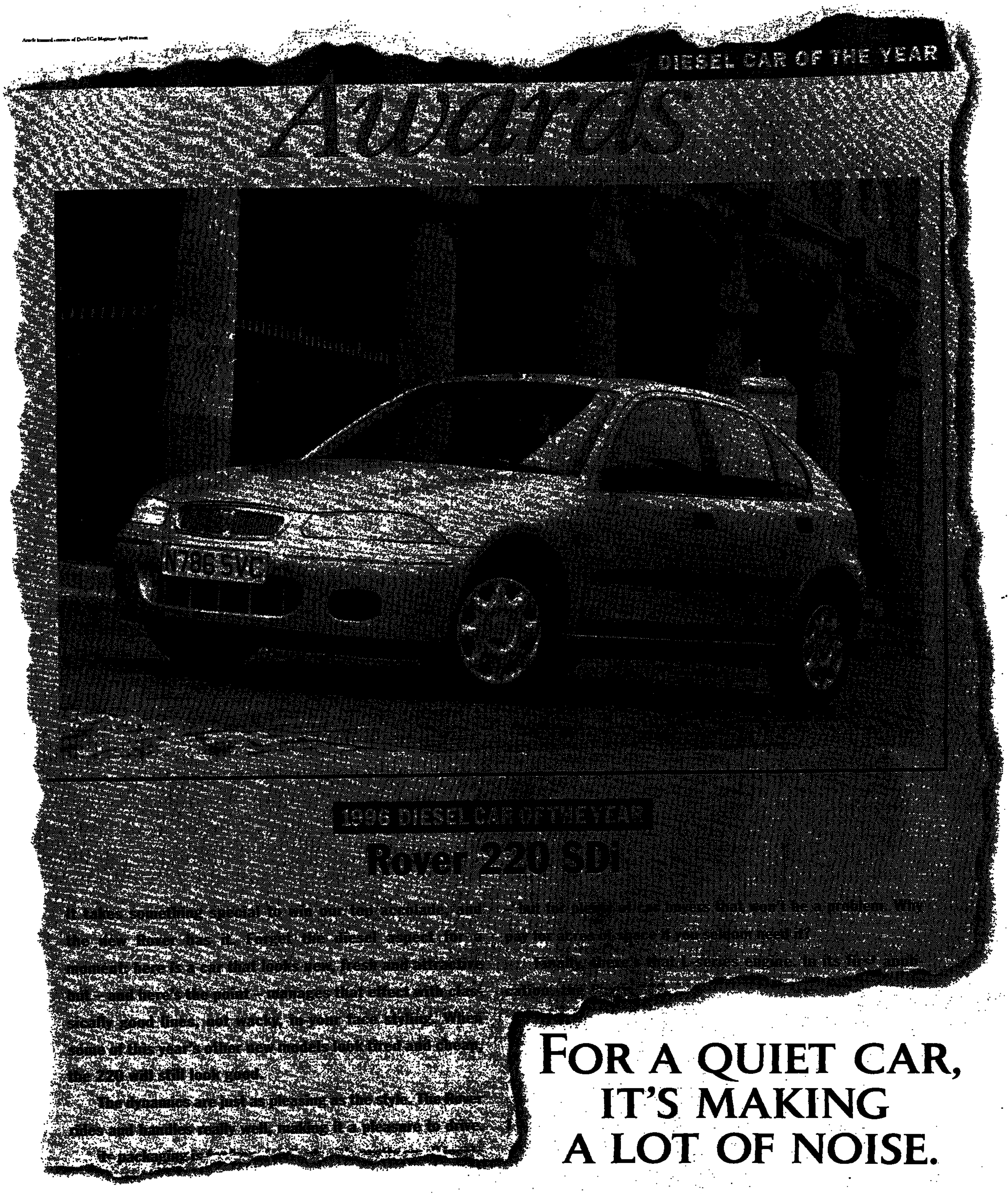
ARISTON

Making more of your home.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Awards featured courtesy of Diesel Car Magazine April 1996 issue.



1996 DIESEL CAR OF THE YEAR

Rover 220 SDi

It takes something special to win our top accolade, and the new Rover has it. Forget the diesel aspect for a moment: here is a car that looks new, fresh and attractive. That – and here's the point – manages that effect with classically good lines, not wacky, in your face styling. When some of this year's other new models look tired and cheap, the 220 will still look good.

The dynamics are just as pleasing as the style. The Rover rides and handles really well, making it a pleasure to drive.

Its packaging is [illegible]

[illegible] noises that won't be a problem. Why [illegible] you seldom need it?

[illegible] L-series engine. In its first outing [illegible]

FOR A QUIET CAR, IT'S MAKING A LOT OF NOISE.

Call 0345 186 186 to hear even more about it, or contact your local dealer.

ROVER
RELAX. IT'S A ROVER.

A walk on the wild side for Martin the hungry tiger

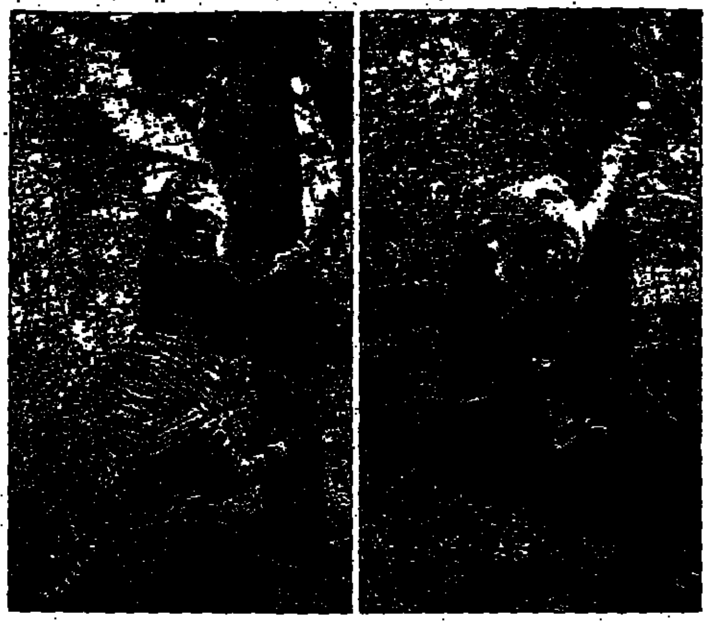
By Kathryn Knight

HE looks fierce, but the wild side of life has been rather absent for a tiger named Martin. Now keepers at London Zoo are trying to bring out the beast in him. For a start, they keep hiding his food.

Instead of being handed over on a plate, meat is hidden under rocks or at the top of a pole as part of a new lifestyle to redevelop predatory skills in the big cats' enclosure. Martin, a Sumatran tiger, and his mate Mira must now jump, climb or forage to eat. The technique is one of many which may be used to help the conservation of tigers.

As scientists from around the world gather at the zoo today for Tiger 2000 — the first major tiger conservation forum for a decade — it is hoped that the techniques may eventually form part of a larger programme designed to reintroduce domesticated tigers back to the wild. Other tricks adopted by the tigers' keeper, Caroline Connor, include dragging meat on a piece of rope to leave a scent trail and strewing the enclosure with the faeces of other animals to introduce the cats to new scents.

"There's not always a reward at the end of it, but that's the point," Ms Connor said. "Sometimes they get the meat and sometimes they don't. This way they get to exercise their body and their brain. Their muscle tone improves and they become alert to new possibilities. We can't give them live prey so this is the next best thing."


How to drive a tiger a little wild: Martin climbs for food

Future plans include stringing a wire over a log on the water, so the tigers have to balance and jump for their meat: "They're bound to fall in a few times, which is okay as they like water, but we thought we'd wait until it got a bit warmer."

Douglas Richardson, assistant curator of mammals at the zoo, said: "Reintroduction may be one way of helping conservation. Tigers who have bred in captivity could be slowly reintroduced to the wild with their cubs.

"We could have a situation where we have a zoo-type enclosure in the wild which is slowly eroded, leaving the tigers free. For the time being, we want the tigers to demonstrate as wide a range of their natural behaviour as possible, to mirror what they would do in their natural environment."

At Tiger 2000, scientists and conservationists will spend two days discussing practical ways to help the dwindling tiger population and highlight the problems to governments worldwide. Topics range from genetics to anti-poaching operations.

Richard Burge, director-general of London Zoo, said that the tiger population had declined dramatically over the past decade and some of the smaller sub-species would not survive. Poaching — for skins and ingredients for oriental medicines — and environmental development were the greatest threats: "In 1990 alone, 1,900 kilos of tiger bone were imported from Taiwan into Japan — that's 400 to 500 tigers," he said. "Tigers are also increasingly coming into conflict with the human population as their natural habitat is destroyed. There are areas we are not going to be able to save."

CHRIS HARRIS

The tiger who doesn't know where his next meal will come from

Accident verdict for soldiers hit by shell

By Michael Evans

TWO soldiers killed by a stray artillery shell at a firing range in Canada died accidentally, a coroner ruled yesterday.

Corporals Robert Hawksley and Martin Bailey of The Queen's Royal Lancers were hit by a 95 lb shell that landed in their trench during an exercise at the British Army Training Grounds at Suffield in Alberta in 1994.

Peter Ashworth, the coroner at their inquest at Derby, said he could record a verdict of unlawful killing only if he was satisfied that those involved had been grossly negligent. "This tragedy was caused by the convergence by chance of many factors ... Though I record this verdict that does not mean there have not been faults."

After the inquest, David Hawksley, 57, father of Corporal Hawksley, from Toton in Nottinghamshire, said: "We thought the inquest may have given us justice but it hasn't." The Army had been playing Russian roulette with his son's life, he added.

IRA hit again as republic police seize detonators

By Nicholas Watt, chief Ireland correspondent

POLICE in the Irish Republic have uncovered an IRA bomb-making factory where the terrorists assembled detonating cords.

Armed officers seized more than 100 lengths of plastic tubing stuffed with Semtex explosives that could have been used to detonate massive bombs of the type that devastated the City of London in the early 1990s.

The coup was the latest in a series of successful anti-terrorist operations. Since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire in February last year, police on both sides of the Irish border and in mainland Britain have uncovered bomb-making factories, arms caches and terrorist hideouts. However, the IRA is still believed to have several tonnes of Semtex.

The successes indicate that the Garda Special Branch, the RUC and MI5 managed to penetrate the IRA at senior levels during the 18-month ceasefire. One security source in London said: "Every time the terrorists pop up, we're there waiting for them."

Observers in Northern Ireland also believe that the public on both sides of the border were so horrified by the resumption of IRA terrorism that people who would never have thought of contacting the police were now tipping them off. The IRA admitted that Roman Catholics were undermining it when the Belfast Brigade warned last month that informers would be shot.

In the latest police operation, on Monday, detonating cords were seized as they were being moved from one vehicle to another near Moyvalley, Co Kildare, on the main Dublin to Galway road. A short time later armed officers seized similar cords in a series of raids in Portlaw, Co Waterford. Buildings were also raided in Tipperary and Kilkenny. Five people, including a woman, were arrested during the raids.

The seizures will prompt a major internal IRA investigation by the "civil administration team", which reports to the organisation's "adjutant-general". The terrorists will want to know whether an informer within the IRA tipped off police or their plans were thwarted by sophisticated Garda intelligence.

One of the posters in Christchurch yesterday

Tufnell row helps 'best joint in town'

By Pattrick Smellie in Wellington

THE England cricketer Phillip Tufnell, who was accused of smoking cannabis by waitresses at a restaurant in Christchurch on the eve of England's victory in the Third Test against New Zealand, may have been the victim of a publicity stunt, it emerged yesterday.

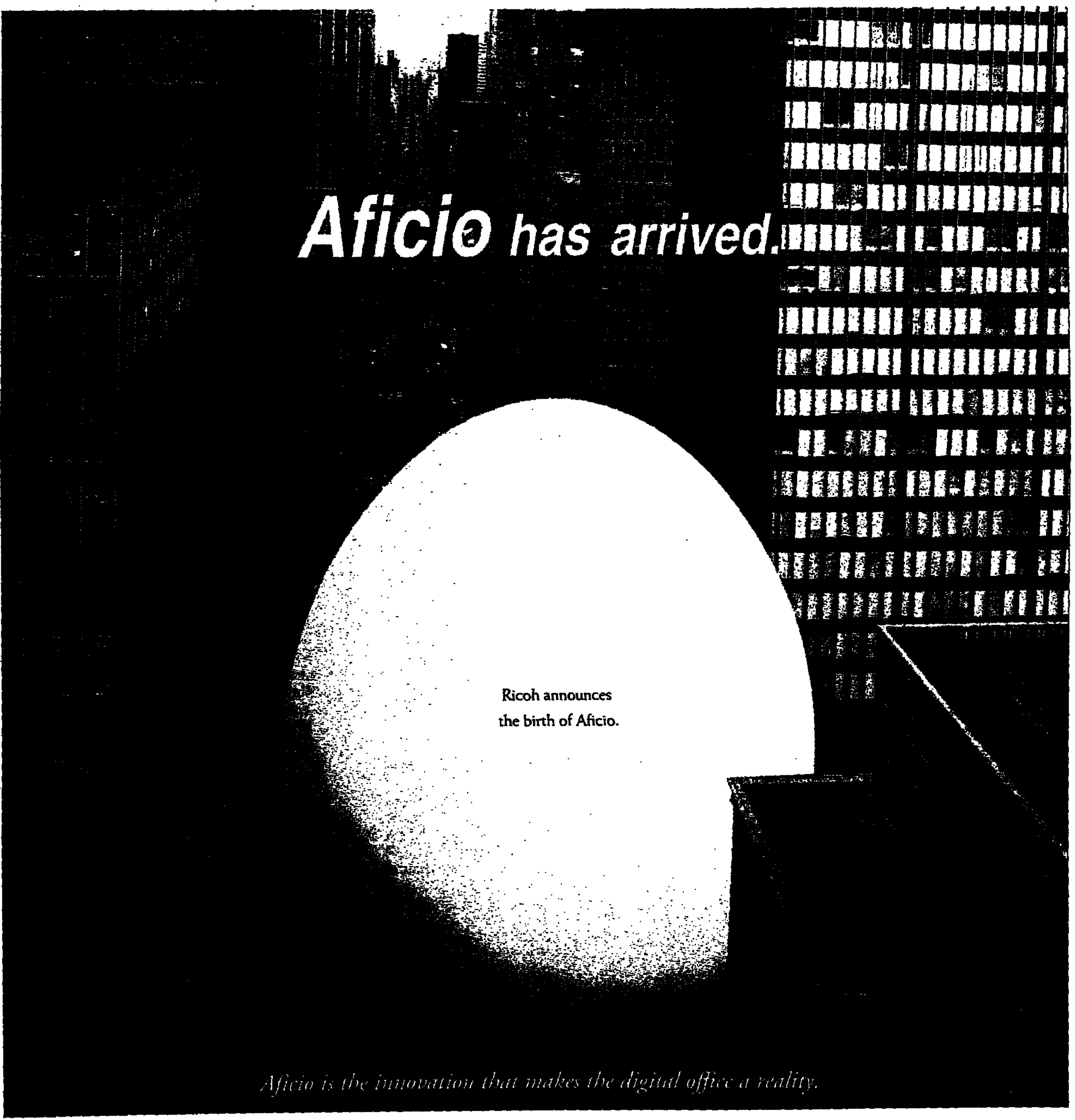
Bardellis, the restaurant at the centre of the allegations, fell under suspicion when posters saying "Phil Tufnell must agree that Bardellis really is Christchurch's Best Joint" were spotted in the city centre.

A Wellington bar, Cafe Brava, gained similar publicity late last year when its staff spoke to the media about several late-night incidents involving the Deputy Prime Minister-to-be, Winston Peters.

Staff at Bardellis would not comment on the incident. In a separate development, Christchurch media sources said that Caitlin Cherry, the waitress who made the story public, is studying broadcast journalism at a local college. Ms Cherry is thought to have tipped off local media before informing Bardellis management.

Tufnell has dismissed the allegations as ridiculous.

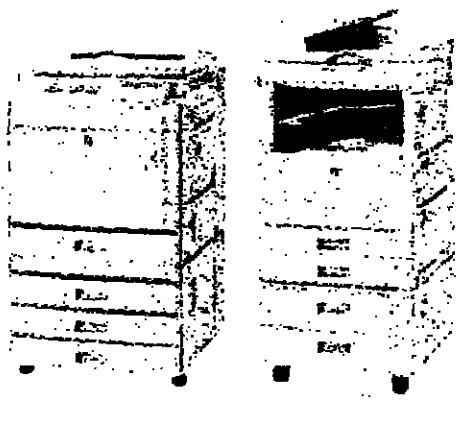
Cricket, page 44


Aficio has arrived.

Ricoh announces the birth of Aficio.

Aficio is the innovation that makes the digital office a reality.

It's here. Aficio. Ricoh's new concept in office equipment which lets you succeed in today's digital age. This new, affordable line of digital office products offers you a variety of models and functions. Choose from full-colour or black-and-white digital copiers onto which you will be able to add a range of optional faxing, printing and networking modules. Simply select the configuration that best meets your needs. It's all part of Aficio's innovative design that allows more flexibility and greater productivity for the office. Introducing Aficio, the new digital office equipment for everyone.


Aficio™
by RICOH

RICOH / nashuatec / Rex-Rotary / Gestetner

Ricoh U.K. Ltd. FreePhone: 0800-303050, Fax: 0181-261-4004
NRG Group Limited. Tel: 0500-102-103, Fax: 01604-24812

over 25?
car insurance
more than £200?
you need help.
0800 11 22 33
help

Cheaper car insurance
ADMIRAL
0800 600 800

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الأصل

Appeal Court cuts award to assault victim by £185,000

Exemplary damages against the police limited to £50,000

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

JURIES are to be limited to £50,000 when awarding exemplary damages to victims of unlawful arrest and police assault.

Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, set the new guidelines yesterday in a test case brought by the Metropolitan Police, who complained that juries were making excessive exemplary awards of more than £100,000 against the force. Awards and costs for civil actions have cost it £20 million since 1986.

In a landmark judgment, the Appeal Court cut by £185,000 a £220,000 award to Kenneth Hsu, a hairdresser who was wrongfully arrested, assaulted and imprisoned by police in south London. The court upheld a jury's award of £20,000 compensation to Mr Hsu, 34, from Tulse Hill, south London, but reduced exemplary damages from £200,000 to £15,000.

In a written judgment, Lord Woolf said: "This should suffice to demonstrate the strongest disapproval of what occurred and make it clear to the Commissioner and his force that conduct of this nature will not be tolerated by the courts."

In a second test case, the court dismissed a police appeal against £51,000 awarded to Claudette Thompson for false imprisonment, malicious prosecution and assault.

Lord Woolf, sitting with Lord Justice Auld and Sir Brian Neill, said: "The conduct of the police can only be described as outrageous and totally inconsistent with their responsibilities. In Ms Thompson's case, senior police officers were involved in a malicious prosecution."

The costs of both appeals were awarded against the police.

The three judges said that, in future, juries should be given directions by judges on the reasons for awarding damages and their level. For wrongful arrest and imprisonment, basic damages of £500 should be awarded for the first hour a person was deprived of their liberty, followed by additional sums on a reducing scale. They recommended a maximum £3,000 award for a person wrongly kept in custody for 24 hours.

In cases of malicious prosecution, basic damages should begin at about £2,000 for proceedings lasting as long as two years, and £10,000 if the case went to the Crown Court. If malicious prosecution resulted in a conviction which was set aside at appeal, the sum would be bigger.

In cases where exemplary damages were claimed, the judge should explain to the jury that they were in effect a "windfall" for the plaintiff. The maximum would be £50,000 awarded for bad conduct by officers of superintendent rank and above. They would usually range from £5,000 to £25,000.

Outside the court, Mr Hsu said he was very disappointed with the result. "The memory is always there, it never goes away. I never like to know anything about the police. I am afraid of the police."

Sadiq Khan, his solicitor, said: "It was not the money that mattered. These officers acted outrageously. Five years after the initial incident no officer involved has been punished or even disciplined. The jury made the award of damages to make examples of these officers and to this day Mr Hsu has not even received an apology for the way he was treated."

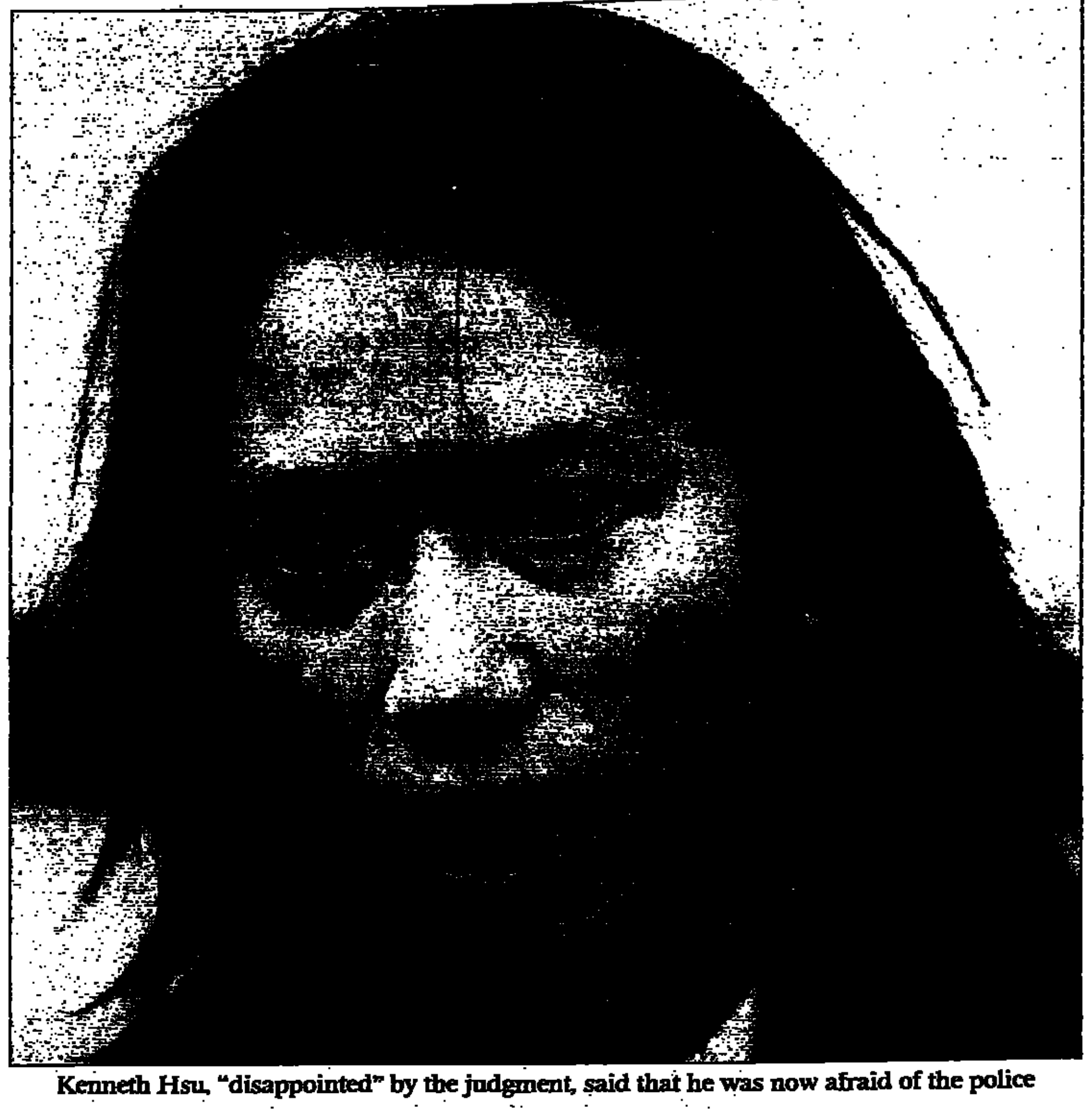
Ms Thompson, 31, was not in court for the ruling. Raju Bhatt, her solicitor, said the judgment was a slap in the face for Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, who had argued for exemplary damages of only £10,000 in each case. He said: "The Commissioner and the Police Federation had tried to ridicule these victims of police crime as if what happened to them did not matter."

David Hamilton, solicitor for the Metropolitan Police, said the guidelines introduced a more sensible framework for the whole question of determining damages. The court had sent a message that the purpose of exemplary damages was "to introduce an element of punishment if the overall value of the award without it is insufficient to mark disapproval".

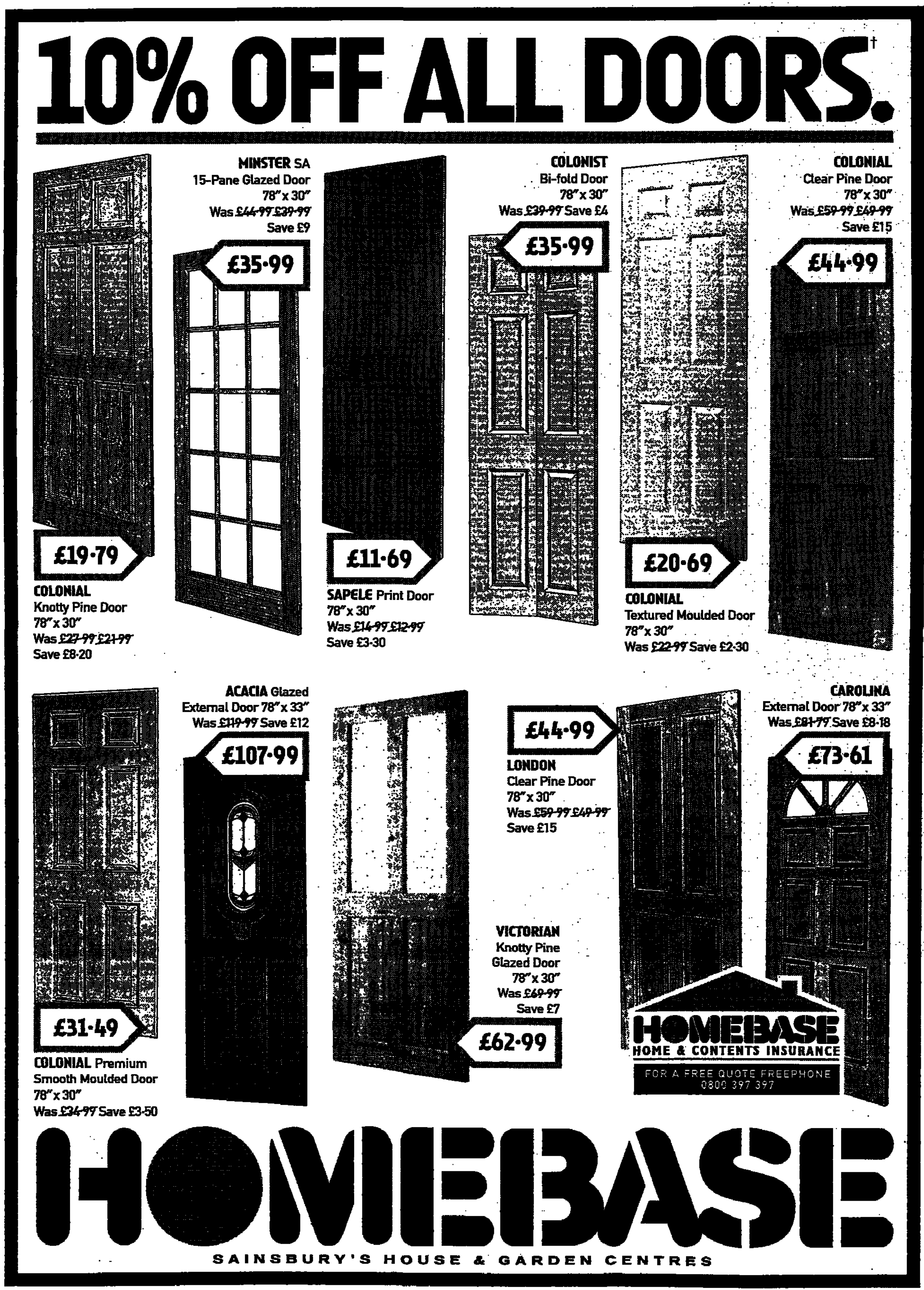
A spokeswoman for Scotland Yard said no officer involved in either case had been disciplined. In Ms Thompson's case no complaint had been received. Mr Hsu had complained but had not given a statement while the civil court proceedings were outstanding.

Leading article, page 21
Law, page 34

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Kenneth Hsu, "disappointed" by the judgment, said that he was now afraid of the police



10% OFF ALL DOORS.†

MINSTER SA
15-Pane Glazed Door
78"x 30"
Was ~~£44·99~~ ~~£39·99~~
Save £9
£35·99

COLONIST
Bi-fold Door
78"x 30"
Was ~~£39·99~~ Save £4
£35·99

COLONIAL
Clear Pine Door
78"x 30"
Was ~~£59·99~~ ~~£49·99~~
Save £15
£44·99

£19·79
COLONIAL
Knotty Pine Door
78"x 30"
Was ~~£27·99~~ ~~£21·99~~
Save £8·20

£11·69
SAPELE Print Door
78"x 30"
Was ~~£14·99~~ ~~£12·99~~
Save £3·30

£20·69
COLONIAL
Textured Moulded Door
78"x 30"
Was ~~£22·99~~ Save £2·30

ACACIA Glazed
External Door 78"x 33"
Was ~~£119·99~~ Save £12
£107·99

£44·99
LONDON
Clear Pine Door
78"x 30"
Was ~~£59·99~~ ~~£49·99~~
Save £15

CAROLINA
External Door 78"x 33"
Was ~~£81·79~~ Save £8·18
£73·61

VICTORIAN
Knotty Pine
Glazed Door
78"x 30"
Was ~~£69·99~~
Save £7
£62·99

£31·49
COLONIAL Premium
Smooth Moulded Door
78"x 30"
Was ~~£34·99~~ Save £3·50

HOMEBASE
HOME & CONTENTS INSURANCE
FOR A FREE QUOTE FREEPHONE
0800 397 397

HOMEBASE
SAINSBURY'S HOUSE & GARDEN CENTRES

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM • FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM*.
†Prices shown include 10% discount. Offer applies to all external and internal wooden doors but excludes kitchen cabinets, louvre and Acmetrack wardrobe doors. Door furniture not included. Offer valid while stocks last. OFFER VALID FROM 17TH FEBRUARY- 11TH MARCH 1997. All sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. Products and offers may vary in Northern Ireland and Eire. *Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-6pm. Opening times may vary. Please call 0645 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store.

Europe backs prosecution of sadomasochists

From Charles Bremner in Strasbourg

BRITAIN was entitled to prosecute three men for causing injuries during sadomasochistic sex, the European Court of Human Rights ruled yesterday. The decision confirms limits to rights of privacy.

The Home Office welcomed the unanimous decision by nine Strasbourg judges as vindicating the British courts in a test case that pitted individual rights to privacy against the public need to safeguard health and safety. The judges also said there was no evidence that British courts were biased against homosexuals.

The Strasbourg case was brought by Roland Jaggard, 49, Anthony Brown, 61, and Colin Laskey, who died in 1995, aged 52. They were among 16 men arrested after a police operation called "Operation Spanner" acquired video tapes in 1987 which showed them engaging with 44 other men in violent sexual acts involving whips, sandpaper and fish-hooks.

The three men were convicted of causing bodily harm, wounding and other offences, although the "victims" were consenting participants. They were jailed for up to six months.

The three sought to have the verdicts overruled by Strasbourg on the ground that it breached Article 8 of the European Human Rights Convention, which says: "Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence." The judges found that the prosecution was justified under exceptions covering "the protection of health".

The case differed from previous decisions on sexual rights because "the applicants' sadomasochistic activities involved a significant degree of injury or wounding", the judges said. Britain was "unquestionably entitled to seek to regulate through the operation of the criminal law activities which involved infliction of physical harm".

Mr Jaggard, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, Mr Brown, of the Yardley district of Birmingham, and the late Mr Laskey, from Pontypridd, South Wales, had been backed by civil-liberties organisations in their Strasbourg action. The group Liberty had pointed out that all those convicted had consented to the acts and none had needed hospital treatment.

The court doubted that the men's activities were private because a "considerable number of people were involved in the activities, which included the recruitment of new members, the provision of several specially equipped chambers and the shooting of many video tapes which were distributed among members".

The sex acts involved hot wax, sandpaper, fish-hooks and needles, and ritualistic beatings with spiked belts, stinging nettles and a cat-o'-nine-tails. Those receiving the abuse used a codeword if they wanted to stop the "punishment".

Peter Tatchell of OutRage, the group that advocates homosexual rights, said: "This decision indicates that the Convention is seriously deficient and needs updating. It has failed to protect the rights of consenting adults in private to make their own sexual choices free from state interference."

Sadomasochism should not be illegal unless it occurred without consent, involved children or caused permanent injury, he said. "It is profoundly undemocratic that a form of sexual behaviour has been criminalised by the court without any parliamentary debate or approval."

Peter Brookes, page 20

Microlight caused havoc over airport

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

A MICROLIGHT aircraft disrupted several scheduled flights above Glasgow Airport when its pilot became hopelessly lost after folding his map the wrong way.

Jaysukh Madhvani, 44, from New Barnet, Hertfordshire, had covered 1,200 miles in four days while taking part in a round-Britain microlight rally before flying unannounced into the airport's airspace on June 22 last year.

Paisley Sheriff Court was told yesterday that the microlight's presence led to incoming passenger planes being "stacked" and prevented from landing. The pilot of a British Airways jet arriving from Manchester had to take evasive action.

Depute Fiscal David Harvey said that although no lives were put at risk, Madhvani had caused considerable disruption. Air traffic control at Glasgow asked the police to intervene and a police helicopter finally intercepted the microlight at Kirkintilloch, north of Glasgow, and followed it to Cumbernauld, where it landed.

Mr Harvey said the pilot told police he had folded his map in the wrong place and that he and his passenger were completely lost. The principal difficulties were caused because Madhvani failed to make contact with Glasgow air traffic control when he had earlier landed in a field at Bishopton.

Madhvani, who admitted breaching air traffic control laws, told Sheriff James Spy: "In effect, I flew off my map." He had now qualified as an instructor and hoped to make that his full-time occupation: "I have been flying for six years and have never broken any rules before," he said.

Admonishing him, Sheriff Spy said he accepted it had been a case of human error. "You had no intention to deliberately fly into this airspace."

Rifkind's candour puts Tories on popular side of EMU row

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Foreign Secretary is not supposed to make "a slip of the tongue under pressure", as Kenneth Clarke yesterday tartly described Malcolm Rifkind's comment that the Government was "hostile" to a single currency. This may have been indiscreet, but it was not a slip of the tongue. The majority of the Cabinet *is* hostile to a single currency, and does not mind the public knowing. But the official government line is to keep open its options, "wait and see" or "negotiate and decide" according to taste. So Mr Clarke was defending the Government's formal position, while Mr Rifkind was revealing the private real one. The latter's candour shows how hard, if not impossible, it is for the Tory leadership to maintain even a facade of unity on monetary union.

John Redwood and David Heathcoat-Amory quickly intervened to welcome what Mr Rifkind had said as representing a significant admission. Mr Rifkind and Downing Street spokesmen later claimed that he had not been saying anything new, and talk of being "not neutral" and "hostile" had merely reflected the Cabinet's discussion a month ago on the prospects for a single currency. Mr Rifkind had then announced the Cabinet's view that it was "very unlikely" that joining monetary union in January 1999 would be in Britain's interests, though the Government was not ruling it out.

Mr Clarke has not disguised his impatience with some of his colleagues for raising the issue. On his view, the sole result of the two hours' discussion was that Mr Rifkind inserted the word "very" before unlikely. Mr Clarke only agreed to this form of words because he believes the existing position of keeping open Britain's options was reaffirmed. It is precisely that concordat that Mr Rifkind appeared to challenge on the *Today programme*, which is why Mr Clarke gave his dismissive reaction.

The episode is double-edged for the Tories. It underlines the Tories' deep-seated divisions on Europe and that is electorally damaging. These differences were seized upon last night by Gordon Brown to claim that the continued Tory civil war over Europe was damaging the national interest. But by reinforcing the impression of government hostility to a single currency, Mr Rifkind put the Tories on the popular side of the argument — though Labour has been distancing itself from the possiblity of joining in the first wave.

The real battle is, of course, for the future direction and leadership of the Tory party. It is significant that the two Cabinet ministers who have most pushed a sceptic line this year have been from the Centre-Left, Stephen Dorrell and Mr Rifkind. Both have leadership ambitions and need to broaden their base to attract the support of more sceptic MPs.

Mr Clarke is dismissive of these manoeuvrings. He is in the paradoxical position of sticking to the Cabinet's formal policy yet being out of line with the preferences of most of his colleagues. He has been on the defensive for the past 18 months in face of the Cabinet's step-by-step shift to more open hostility to a single currency and has looked increasingly isolated. But as Chancellor he still has a nuclear power, the threat of resignation, which he has used to block an outright commitment in the Tory manifesto ruling out possible British entry into a single currency. It is a fine line between "very unlikely", "not neutral" and "hostile" and such a pledge. This is, of course, all an exercise in positioning rather than policymaking. Even if Britain does not enter a single currency in the first wave, Mr Clarke believes we will go in within a few years if monetary union proves to be a success. He and his allies hope that by keeping the question open they will have greater freedom of manoeuvre in the next Parliament.

PETER RIDDELL

Wirral South by-election

Labour candidate meets the voters in US-style 'blitz'

By Russell Jenkins

LABOUR has adopted an American-style campaign technique to bolster its support in Wirral South.

Party workers are taking Ben Chapman, their candidate in next Thursday's by-election, on "blitzing" tours of the constituency, knocking on doors and offering voters the chance to meet him and shake his hand. The idea is to maximise personal contact, bringing him face to face with thousands more people than would be possible during traditional canvassing.

A sign hanging at Labour's campaign headquarters in New Ferry yesterday showed the tally so far: "Ben's blitzing: 15,354".

The operation is conducted at speed, with an advance guard calling at houses and the candidate following close behind. When a willing supporter is identified, the signal is given for Mr Chapman, a 56-year-old former civil servant, to jog up to the door. He aims to shake 50 hands an hour.

Traditional canvassing is intended to discover voters' intentions. Labour says that "blitzing" is about reinforcing support, and giving people the chance to see the person they are being asked to vote for.

A Labour spokesman said: "You don't actually ask people about how they are voting. You literally ask, 'Would you like to meet Ben Chapman?'

"Blitzing is where we want to increase the profile of a candidate with the voters so they have actually met him and can feel more strongly about voting for him."

Yesterday Tony Blair joined his party's campaign effort in Wirral South, flashing toothy smiles and vigorously shaking hands as he was feted first on the shopfloor of Candy Domestic Appliances, then in a walkabout along one of the less prosperous high streets.

He basked in adulation as he discovered that new Labour was as welcome as old Labour in the wards with the highest unemployment and social problems. Surrounded by a growing entourage of television cameramen and photographers, he was led beaming through the stage-managed affair.

At the Taste Buds cafe, he gushed about the busy lunchtime trade; at Tracy's Florists he was given a red rose buttonhole; at Kwik Save he learnt that the manager, Graeme Heatherwick, had been a great fan of his predecessor, John Smith. Mr Blair gave him a pat on the arm before moving on.

As the media crown threatened to get out of control, Sue Evans, pushing her three-year-old son, Lewis, in a buggy, was ushered into Mr Blair's presence. Afterwards, Lewis asked his mother: "Is he a footballer?"

The warmth was in sharp contrast to the windswept corner of a hotel car park chosen by Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, and Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, to outline their concern about Labour's constitutional policy.

As the wind blew, Dr Mawhinney unveiled the latest Tory poster. It showed a blank flag with the words: "Labour's Union Jack ... New Labour, No Britain." The ministers had flown to Merseyside that morning and were headng straight back after the photocall.

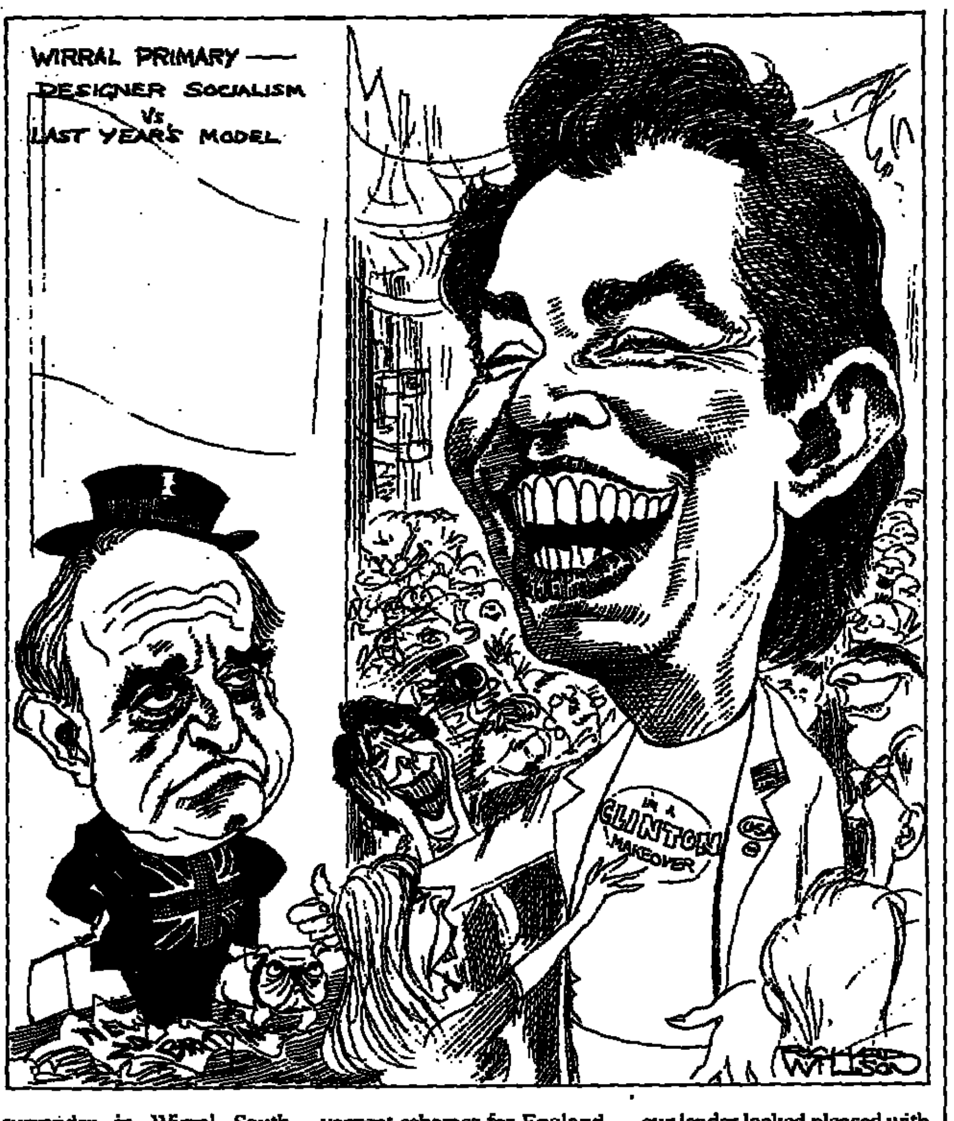
Dr Mawhinney looked momentarily lost for words when he asked why the Tories were hoisting the white flag of surrender in Wirral South before he launched back into his theme that Labour's plans for the regions would put the integrity of the United Kingdom at risk.

Mr Forsyth said: "We have always taken our United Kingdom for granted. We can do so no more. Labour's irresponsibiity and totally divergent schemes for England, Scotland and Wales threaten to tear our country apart, leading to separation of the member nations and the fragmentation of England itself."

Mr Blair's aides refused to confirm rumours that he is planning a third and last visit to Wirral South on the eve of next Thursday's poll. The Labour leader looked pleased with his visit. As he climbed into his car, somebody shouted: "Kick out the Tories." The cheers were ringing in his ears.

☐ 1992 general election: Barry Porter (C, 25,590); Helen Southworth (Lab, 17,407); Ed Cunniffe (LD, 6,581). Majority: 8,183.

William Rees-Mogg, page 20



Blair to propose curbs on house sale gazumping

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

TONY BLAIR is about to present Labour plans to penalise homeowners who pull out of a sale after receiving a better offer for their property.

He is preparing for a Labour government to launch a purge on "gazumping", with curbs under which a seller would pay the purchaser's conveyancing and survey costs if the sale collapsed without good reason.

The Labour move, expected to be announced within the next month, is intended to prevent the expected surge in gazumping. Estate agents have recently reported a sharp increase in the problem, especially in London and the South East where the property market is recovering more rapidly than in other regions.

Mr Blair is understood to be determined to curb one of the main causes of an overheating property market, fearing that house price inflation over the coming year would increase pressure on a Labour government to raise interest rates.

Labour's plans, drafted by Nick Raynsford, the housing spokesman, will be published for consultation among lenders, lawyers and estate agents, to be followed by a new code of conduct to regulate the housing market. Senior Labour figures are attracted by the so-called "lock-out" agreement practised by some estate agents, under which vendors have to sell at an agreed price as long as the sale is completed by a specified date.

Labour is prepared to introduce legislation to underpin changes to housing sales, but hopes that codes of practice among lawyers and estate agents would in any case create a new culture in which vendors pledged to keep to the agreed price. "A purchaser would soon become suspicious if the vendor refuses to sign an agreement. There might be ways round a code but at least the purchaser knows the sort of person he is dealing with."

A homeowner who fails to give a good reason for backing out of a deal would have to pay the buyer's full conveyancing and survey costs. It would also curb the reverse practice of "gazundering", common in a falling property market, in which buyers renege on an agreed price and put in a lower offer at the last minute.

Last week the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors announced proposals for a voluntary contract to protect homebuyers from being gazumped. It said the "standard personal contract" would act as a deterrent against one side withdrawing or trying to renegotiate the terms after the offer is accepted. But Labour sees as too complex the proposal to make the buyer pay the vendor compensation of 5 per cent interest above the bank base rate on the agreed purchase price from the date of the agreement.

Straw pledges to fight anti-gay prejudice

By Andrew Pierce

JACK STRAW, the Shadow Home Secretary, confirmed last night that a Labour government will abolish the law that bars local authorities from portraying homosexuality in a positive light.

In a speech to Stonewall, the gay rights organisation set up after the Section 28 legislation passed into law in 1988, Mr Straw promised homosexuals a better deal from a Labour government.Labour would enter the general election with a commitment to tackle prejudice.

He compared the example of Stephen Lawrence, the black teenager killed in a racist attack, with the gay victims of "queer bashing" gangs."In so many cases, in Stephen Lawrence's case, in many involving gay people, the perpetrators get away with their crimes. It is why we are committed to a strategy of zero tolerance to make the streets safe for everyone regardless of the colour of their skin or sexual preference," he said.

He added: "This law was brought forward for the worst of reasons. It dealt with no serious mischief ... It gives gratuitous offence to those who are gay while solving no other problem."

Sceptics seek TV ban on Brittan and Kinnock

By James Landale, Political Reporter

A GROUP of Tory Eurosceptics called yesterday for European Commission officials to be banned from appearing on television during the general election campaign.

More than 50 MPs wrote to the BBC and the Independent Television Commission to warn them that impartiality guidelines could be breached if spokesmen for the Brussels executive were given too much media exposure. They claimed that that Commissioners and their officials cannot be described as impartial because of their commitment to European integration.

Bill Cash, Tory MP for Stafford, who is leading the campaign, complained that Neil Kinnock and Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's two Commissioners, were always presented on television as independent "gurus" on Europe. "If the broadcasters are going to be impartial, they must not put people on who have taken an oath of support for European integration."

In letters to Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC, and Sir Peter Rogers, chief executive of the Independent Television Commission, the MPs urged the Corporation to stick to its Charter and the Commission to the Broadcasting Acts in their reporting of European issues. "These require impartiality in respect of matters of public policy and you will, of course, give due weight to alternative views and spokesmen of all parties fighting the election.

"We are aware that European Commissioners and officials intend to seek to participate in the general election. It seems to us that there are quite enough people who are actual contestants in the election to make unnecessary for you to call upon Commissioners and officials."

The letter continued: "Furthermore they have a complete commitment to further integration by virtue of their oath of office and therefore, by no stretch of the imagination could they be seen as impartial observers. We would be glad to have your confirmation that our observations will be fully taken into account and acted upon in the public interest during the election."

Geoffrey Martin, head of the European Commission in Britain, said it was "nonsense" that the Commission would interfere in the election. "We have said that if Eurosceptics, of any party, attempt to use Europe as a political plaything, deploying myths, distortions and inaccuracies in their arguments, the Commission will respond vigorously with the facts. This remains the case."

The BBC and the ITC said that they had yet to receive the letters.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: Home Office questions; questions to the Prime Minister. Debates on the constitution; local government services in Leicester. In the Lords: Architects Bill, committee; Lieutenancies Bill, committee; Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Bill, committee; United Nations Personnel Bill, committee; Sundays (Dancing and Licensing) Bill, third reading; Geneva Conventions Bill, third reading; Firearms (Amendment) Bill, Commons amendments; Crime (Sentences) Bill, committee

CALL FREE TODAY FOR FREE CALLS FOR LIFE

FREE 15 MINUTES OF FREE CALLS PER MONTH FOR LIFE WORTH UP TO £74.03 inc. VAT PER YEAR
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE AND IN-CAR ADAPTOR WORTH £55 inc. VAT
FREE COUNTDOWN MEMBERSHIP FOR 1 YEAR WITH THE CELLPHONES DIRECT ADVANTAGE CARD
FREE LIFETIME PRODUCT WARRANTY
FREE 14-DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

PRICE PLEDGE - We'll match any nationally advertised offer for this phone.

TOTAL SAVINGS IN FIRST YEAR UP TO £129.03 inc. VAT

NEW NOKIA 1611 £9.99

CELLPHONES DIRECT TARIFF
CONNECTION CHARGE £35.25 (£30+VAT).
MONTHLY RENTAL £17.63 (£15+VAT).
PEAK RATE CALLS UK WIDE 41.13p per min (35p+VAT)
OFF PEAK CALLS 17.63p per min (15p+VAT)
ONE SECOND BILLING
[illegible]
ALL PHONES COME CONNECTED TO THE FREE OF SUBSCRIPTION VODAFONE RECALL MESSENGER SERVICE

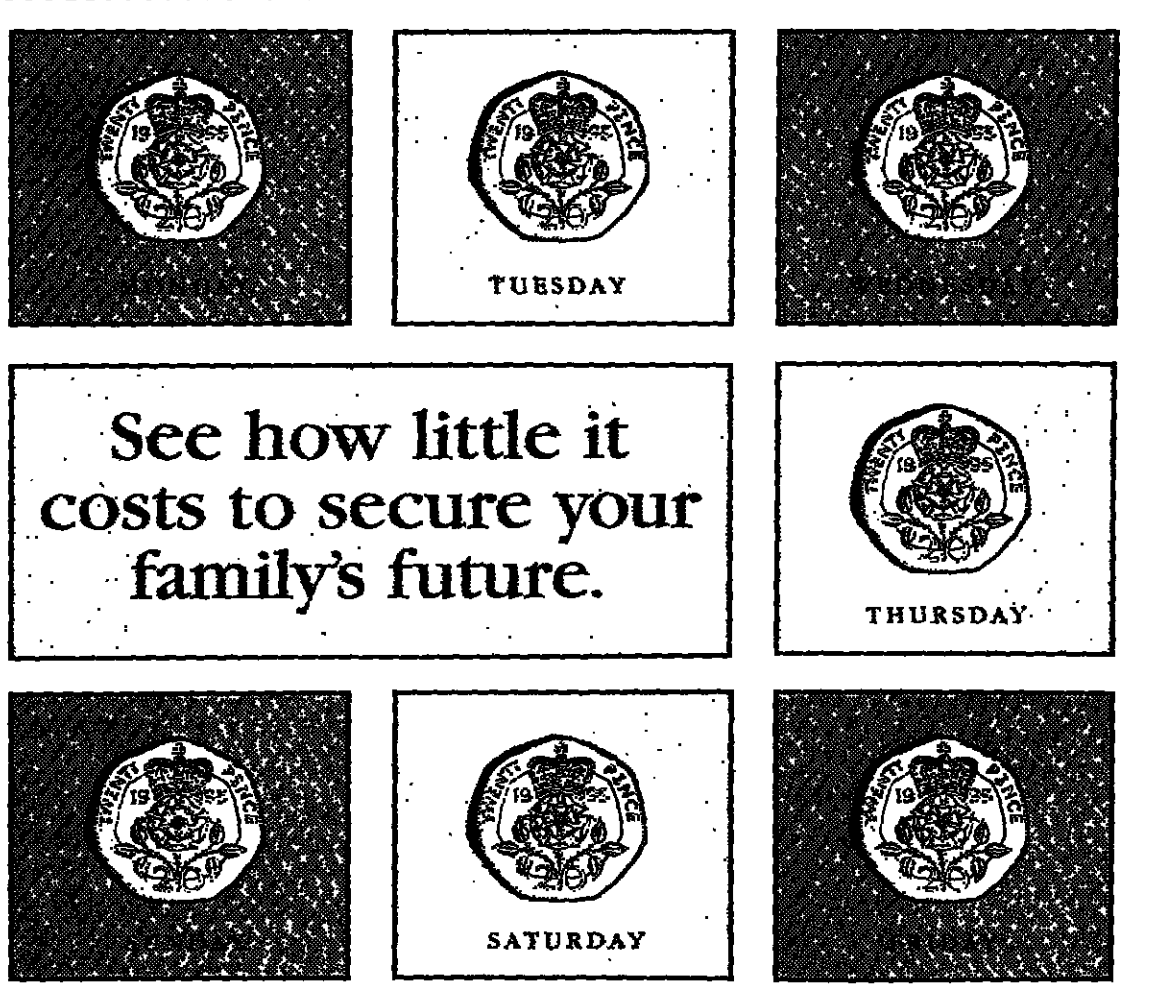
NEW GSM MODEL 1611.
- Up to 3.5 hrs talk-time 110 hrs standby
- SMS send and receive
- Weight 250g

Cellphones direct
THE NAME TO TRUST IN TELEPHONE SHOPPING

QUOTE REF. 5271

FREEPHONE 0800 000 888
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM

[illegible]



In an ideal world you will always be there for your family. But should the worst happen, would they be able to cope without you?

You may well be surprised to learn that for the monthly equivalent of 20p a day you can safeguard your family's future.

Legal & General's Family Protection Plan will ensure that those who depend on you receive a lump sum should you die or become terminally ill during the term you select.

HOW LITTLE IT COULD COST YOU

BENEFIT	TERM	PER DAY
£48,263	15 yrs	[illegible]
£90,000	15 yrs	[illegible]

Based on a male non-smoker aged 30 years.

[illegible]

This valuable cover is easy to budget for as you only pay a premium for a fixed period of time, and the amount you pay each month stays the same.

The sooner you apply, the sooner you can be sure that your family's future is secure. For a free quotation call the number below. Alternatively, contact your financial adviser.

FREE LEGAL & GENERAL UMBRELLA

FOR AN INSTANT QUOTE ON LOW COST COVER CALL FREE ON:
☎ 0 5 0 0 [illegible]

QUOTING THE REFERENCE NUMBER B12/DL13

Lines are open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday and Sunday. For your protection, calls on this number will usually be recorded and randomly monitored.

Further information available on our Website http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk

Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please contact us at the address above.

Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

Legal & General Direct Limited. Registered in England No.2702080 Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP.

FIND OUT MORE TODAY.

Post to: Legal & General, FREEPOST (SWC 0467), Cardiff, CF1 1YW.

Please send me a personal quotation and information pack on Legal & General's Family Protection Plan

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) ____
Forename(s) ____
Address ____
____
____ Postcode ____
Tel No: Home ____
Tel No: Work ____
Date of Birth ____ / ____ /19 ____
(Please tick) I am a Smoker ☐ Non-Smoker ☐
Occupation ____
Marital Status ____
Cover required £ ____
Term required ____ years.
Ref. B12/DL13

Legal & General

هكذا من الاهمال

هكذا من الاصل

Italy faces Grand Prix race boycott over Senna death trial

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN BOLOGNA

A TOP Italian motor-racing manager yesterday said that, if Frank Williams was convicted of manslaughter for the death of Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian racing champion, then Benetton and other leading Formula One teams would refuse to race in Italy again.

"It would be a very difficult choice, but I do not think we would race in Italy," Flavio Briatore, the Benetton team manager said. "Any great racing stable has many international partners, it invests and produces a great deal, it creates highly qualified jobs ... Why put all that at risk? Why bring a racing team to a country where you can be put in prison for an accident?"

The trial of Mr Williams and two other Williams Formula One team members opens today near the Imola race track where Senna died in 1994.

The small town of Imola, near Bologna, known for its ceramics, is under siege from the world's media, with large contingents from Britain and Brazil. Brazilian journalists said Senna's family would be "hanging on every word" from the makeshift courtroom — normally a dance hall — which only holds 60 people.

Proceedings will be relayed to an adjoining hall by closed-circuit television. Maurizio Passarini, the Bologna public prosecutor, will claim that the Williams team caused the death of Senna by modifying the steering column of his car. Senna died when his car hit a bend at the Imola racing track during the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on May 1, 1994.

Signor Passarini has compiled a technical report over the past two and a half years which he says points to the rewelding of the steering column as the reason for the crash. The steering column pierced Senna's helmet "with the force of a bullet", he said. He said the prosecution team had made a "computerised reconstruction" of the fatal crash.

But there are also reports, based on photographs, that Senna's car hit debris left on the track from an earlier crash. This would shift blame away from Mr Williams and other team members toward members of the Imola track management, who are also facing trial.

Mr Williams is being charged with Patrick Head, the Williams team technical director, and Adrian Newey, chief designer at the time of the crash. The trial is expected to adjourn until the end of the this month.

Signor Passarini's case is based on advice from an Italian team of experts which includes former engineers from Ferrari, racing drivers, academic experts, and Roberto Nosetto, a former director of the Imola track.

Signor Briatore told *La Repubblica* that the prosecution was approaching the case "as if it was a traffic accident. But have you ever heard of a traffic accident in which the man who built the car is prosecuted?"

Williams: accused with two colleagues

LANDRY / FIGARO MAGAZINE

Alain Ducasse at his Louis XV restaurant in Monte Carlo. He divides his time between this and another place in Paris

Gastronomes in a stew as Michelin serves master chef with six stars

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

ALAIN DUCASSE, the French master chef, is set to make culinary history by winning a total of six Michelin stars in the new edition of the gastronome's bible next month.

No chef has been awarded more than three, but M Ducasse, 40, owns two of France's top 20 restaurants — the three-star Louis XV in Monaco, and the one he took over when Joel Robuchon, another three-star chef, retired in August.

For French foodies the question of whether M Ducasse earns three more stars for his second restaurant is more than a mere numbers game, being a crucial decision affecting the very philosophy of French cookery. While few rivals would dispute that M Ducasse's *vol-au-vent aux cuisses de grenouilles* [frogs' legs] is a poem on a plate, many argue that a chef who divides his time between two restaurants is half, and not twice, as good as a chef with one.

By tradition, the French culinary supremo is expected to supervise every aspect of his kitchen and restaurant, from the *amuse-gueule* to the candlesticks. M Ducasse, however, leaves many details to underlings.

The simmering debate boiled over this week when *The Wall Street Journal* published an article describing M M Ducasse as "more like ... a chief executive than an executive chef". The paper quoted a rival who insisted that he, at least, was there to supervise the exact placement of the carrots on the plate.

M Ducasse, a farmer's son from the Landes region who became France's youngest three-star chef in 1990, has dismissed the criticisms, pointing out that the greatest fashion designers do not personally cut the cloth to make their outfits. But therein lies the rub: three-star cuisine, say purists, is the equivalent of haute couture, in which each dish should carry the uniquely recognisable mark of its maker. Food by a chef "in absentia" smacks of off-the-peg production or, worse yet, brand-naming.

M Ducasse's self-defence — that he inspires the food rather than always having to cook it — is somewhat undermined by his position as one of the prime movers in a growing campaign to reinforce traditional values in French cuisine. Nothing could be less traditional than a chef not in his kitchen.

The only one to escape from a 1984 plane crash in which five died, M Ducasse knows about survival. He is one of a new breed of businessmen chefs, adept at projecting and marketing a style of restaurant in which the minutiae of ambiance and presentation are almost as important as the food.

As M Ducasse himself points out, his restaurants are very different: the Monaco establishment reflecting Mediterranean flavours and the Paris one offering a more classical style of cooking.

On a recent visit to the renamed Alain Ducasse restaurant in Paris, M Ducasse was not in evidence but the diners — paying, for the most part, more than Fr910 (£100) each for the experience — seemed not at all put out that the chef's fingerprints were not on the plates.

Euro MPs brand Brussels over BSE 'negligence'

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN STRASBOURG

BRITAIN and the European Commission were condemned yesterday for mishandling the "mad cow" epidemic in an overwhelming vote by the European Parliament.

In a show of parliamentary muscle-flexing, the Strasbourg body gave Jacques Santer, the Commission President, nine months to reform the European Union executive or face moves to dismiss him and all his colleagues.

After a six-month inquiry into BSE and weeks of political wrangling, the Parliament vented its anger through the endorsement of a report that catalogues Britain's and the Commission's failure to tackle the epidemic since the late 1980s. In charges dismissed by Downing Street as "tosh", Britain stands accused of negligence, duplicity, incompetence and complacency about the disease.

> ‘The mad cow report has demonstrated the bankruptcy of the European Commission’

Led by all three main political groups, the Parliament voted by 422 to 49 with 48 abstentions for a resolution that backed the report and separately "condemns the behaviour of the UK Government and its mismanagement of the BSE crisis". It also deplores the refusal of Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, to appear before the inquiry.

However, the Parliament rejected separate motions to force the Commission to demand a refund of the £500 million compensation paid so far to British farmers and to summon Mr Hogg to the European Court. This weakened similar recommendations in the BSE report. Commission officials said they did not expect to take action on either call.

In European terms, the main lesson from the Parliament's BSE exercise was the assertion of some legislative power over the Commission, a right that was extended in the Maastricht treaty of 1992. MEPs drew satisfaction yesterday from what they viewed as the modest success of the overwhelming agreement obtained among the fractious 626-member house on a "conditional" censure motion against the Commission.

If Mr Santer fails to implement big changes in personnel and policy, the Parliament could vote to censure him in November. Such a vote, which requires a heavy majority, would force the whole Commission to resign.

There had been consensus among the three groups — the Socialists, Christian Democrats and Liberals — to avoid the use of what is regarded as the Parliament's "nuclear weapon" when most of the alleged failings were blamed on the Commission headed by Jacques Delors, the last President.

Reimer Boge, the German president of the BSE inquiry, which was the first such Congress-style hearing under Maastricht powers, said the exercise had been a complete success and that it had marked a turning point in the Parliament's relations with the Commission.

Mr Santer has already gone some way towards appeasing the Parliament by ordering a shake-up that puts Emma Bonino, one of the most popular Commissioners, in charge of a new consumer safety division. He has promised to discipline civil servants found at fault and to work for a revolution in the common agricultural policy that would promote quality rather than quantity in food production.

However, a handful of MEPs, led by Jose Happart, a Belgian Socialist, are to call for a vote of censure today, although they stand almost no chance of winning the necessary majority. Strongly behind the censure vote is Philippe de Villiers, leader of Sir James Goldsmith's French "Europe of Nations" party.

M de Villiers, a right-wing candidate in the last French presidential election, said that the BSE report had "demonstrated the bankruptcy of the Commission". The main culprit for that was M Delors, he said.

French museums mislay art treasures

Paris: Hundreds of valuable artworks belonging to the French state have gone missing, according to a scathing report by government auditors which accuses national museum officials of gross mismanagement (Ben Macintyre writes).

At least 950 works of art from the national collection cannot be traced, the Cour des Comptes, the audit office, said. More than 100,000 paintings and sculptures are on loan to public bodies. Keeping track of the treasures is a complicated task and open to abuse.

Théodule Ribot's painting *The Good Samaritan*, for example, was found to have been loaned to the French Embassy in Poland 66 years ago and has since materialised in the National Museum in Warsaw; a medallion by Henri Matisse, destined for a museum in Nice, was simply left in the back of a removal van; valuable Sèvres china from the Louvre was lost or smashed during another relocation. Some of the missing artworks have subsequently resurfaced at auctions.

The litany of lost items reflects the wealth of France's artistic heritage. Experts say that, with so many treasures to choose from, local authorities simply did not bother to note their whereabouts.

Seizure of £4m Mafia property ordered

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALIAN magistrates yesterday ordered the confiscation of £4 million Mafia property, including a stable of top race horses and a wine-producing company, as a row broke out over a proposal for the state to remove the children of gangsters from their parents to prevent them learning Mafia values.

In the southern port city of Bari the magistrates ordered that a property belonging to Trifone Cellamare, 50, and his son, Savino, 28, be sequestered. It is one of the biggest such seizures of alleged Mafia property so far in Italy, judicial sources said. The property included 13 race horses, ten lorries and luxury cars and the contents of several bank accounts. The two men were described as leading members of the Mafia based in the southern city of Foggia.

Meanwhile, controversy raged over a proposal by the Mayor of Corleone that the children of mobsters should be placed in state care or given foster homes. Giuseppe Cipriani said such steps were necessary "to give hope to young people who are subject to the oppressive presence of the Mafia".

However, the idea was opposed by Judge Pierluigi Vigna, the country's leading anti-Mafia magistrate, who said 2,000 minors, the sons of supergrasses, had already had to leave their homes, schools and friends as their parents adopted new identities after becoming state [illegible]

£

New UK Tracker PEP

Call now for tax-free growth

No initial charge, no exit charge*

Low annual charge of only 1%

High growth potential

The NatWest UK Tracker PEP is linked to the performance of the FT-SE100 index, so as Britain's largest companies do well, so do you. In fact, over the last five years the FT-SE100 index has grown by over 97%.

The stock market has consistently outperformed typical higher rate building society accounts in the past, so with the NatWest UK Tracker PEP your savings could achieve a much higher level of growth – and it's all tax-free.

You can start your NatWest UK Tracker PEP with just £1,000 or save regularly from £50 each month. You don't need to be a NatWest customer to apply. As long as you want to see higher tax-free growth for your savings, we believe you'll find our NatWest UK Tracker PEP is the obvious choice.

For more information and an Application Form, simply complete the coupon or call today.

* And only approx. 0.5% buying : selling price difference

Call Direct 0800 85 45 81

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss Initial

Surname

Address

Postcode

Day Tel. no. (inc. STD code)

Please tick if you have a NatWest account ○ TRA

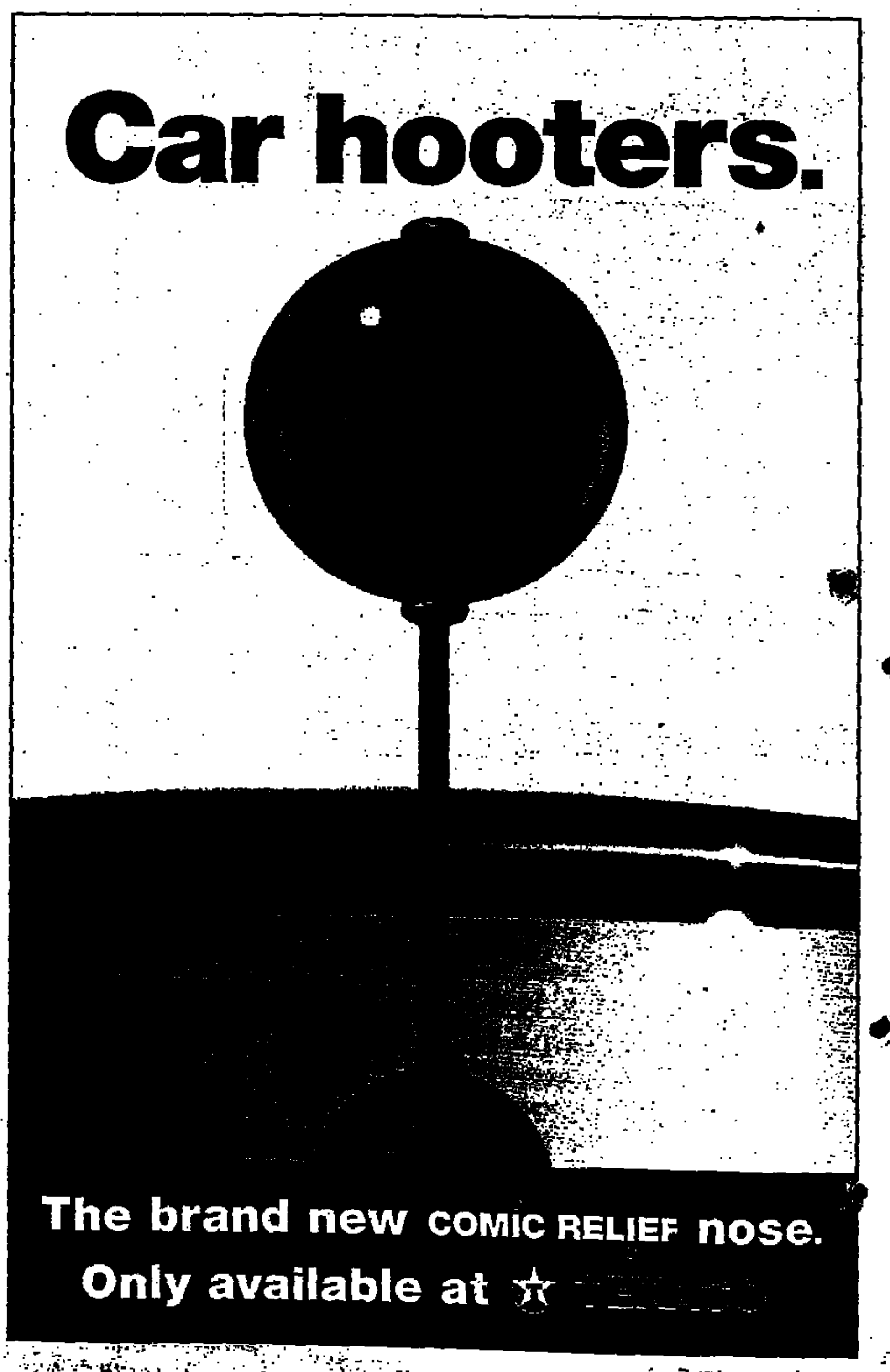
Post to: NatWest, FREEPOST, 4 Eastcheap, LONDON EC3B 3JL.

NatWest offers a wide range of services. Using the information we hold about you, we would like to tell you about them and any offers we believe would interest you. This would be by letter or telephone. If you do not wish us to do this, please indicate below.

I understand that by ticking the box I will not receive information about your services: by letter ○ by telephone ○ 30599

NatWest
More than just a bank

Unlike money in a bank or building society account, which is relatively secure, the value of your capital, and the income from it, may fluctuate up and down, and you may not recover the amount of your original investment. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Unit Trusts should be regarded as a medium to long-term investment. We recommend a minimum of 5 years. The levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation can change. Any tax reliefs referred to are those currently available, and their availability and value will depend on your individual circumstances. The FT-SE growth rate mentioned is from 31 December 1991 – 31 December 1996 with income reinvested (Source: Hindsight).
National Westminster Bank Plc and Ulster Bank Limited are members of the NatWest Life and NatWest Unit Trust Marketing Group, and can advise on the life assurance, pensions and unit trust products only of that Marketing Group. National Westminster Bank Plc and Ulster Bank Limited are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. The Plan Manager of the NatWest Unit Trust PEP is National Westminster Unit Trust Managers Limited, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Issued by National Westminster Bank Plc. Registered in England No 929027. Registered Office: 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP. Calls with NatWest may be monitored/recorded to maintain and improve our service.

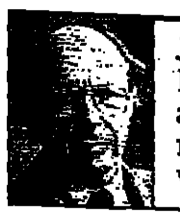


Car hooters.

The brand new COMIC RELIEF nose.
Only available at ☆

China salutes architect of market reform and butcher of Tiananmen Square

Long march ends for 'immortal leader' Deng



Jonathan Mirsky, East Asia Editor, considers the story of a *ruthless apparatchik* who rose to supreme power in the world's most populous nation

"He knew everyone's strengths and weaknesses and built up invaluable connections upon which depend political success, and survival"

It was a curiosity about Deng Xiaoping that China-watchers used to say "if he dies..." This notion of semi-immortality was not because Mr Deng was physically indestructible or had held centre-stage for an unusually long time, although he was certainly tough and had been near or at the top since the middle 1950s, excluding his period when he was out of favour with Chairman Mao.

It is because as with Mao's death, great changes can occur and severe judgments be handed down. After Mao's death, an edited text by Mr Deng in 1981 described the Chairman's last years as a "tragedy", even "catastrophe".

How can we understand the power of Mr Deng — this tiny old man, so incoherent that, as in Mao's final period, only one or two young women knew what he was saying and whose grunts and mutterings, until his final year, instantly transmuted into national policy?

It is not because Mr Deng was charming or warm. Brisk, with a humourless laugh, he was described as a nasty little man by Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State, accused by Mao of being "the little fellow over there" who treated the Chairman "like a dead ancestor". In his time Mr Deng was a killer of landlords, purger of intellectuals and the supreme butcher of Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Unlike Mao, however, Mr Deng did not ensure the physical elimination of his enemies. The purges carried out during his period in supreme power were not marked by oceans of blood, although there were plenty of executions and jailings. He gathered disciples, and when necessary — as with Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang — he abandoned them, but only into political limbo, not into the grave.

His personal loyalties were to his older patrons who helped him up the rungs of power in the Communist Party: Zhou Enlai, Marshal Liu Bocheng, Peng Zhen, Chen Yi, Liu Shaoqi, and Mao.

When he was 16, Mr Deng was sent to France to study by his rich landlord family, but after a brief spell in a factory he went straight into the party's network in France, guided by Zhou Enlai, where his eagerness as a churner-out of propaganda earned him the nickname Dr Mimeograph.

In an essential sense there was nothing unusual about Mr Deng, the talented party apparatchik. But when he realised where power lay in the party, he attached himself to it. There is little evidence that he differed from others in supporting Mao's policies, no matter how damaging. This was the case with killing landlords in the early Fifties, the Anti-Rightist Movement of the late Fifties (which Mr Deng always maintained was necessary), and even the early stages of the Cultural Revolution when Mr Deng not only abased himself but also savaged his best friends in the party. The exception is when he trailed a powerful senior, President Liu Shaoqi, and tried to keep the economy from collapsing in the early Sixties.

But what was it about Mr Deng, who for more than ten of his last years held none of the supreme party or state offices but was simply senior leader — that his merest nod meant a final decision? Above all, he was one of the *lao yidai de gemingjia* — the very first revolutionary generation who joined the Communist Party in 1924, only three years after its official founding.

He was a survivor. In a bloody military campaign in Guangxi against Chiang Kai-shek's forces in 1930-31 which went wrong, he may have abandoned his troops to save himself. This was never mentioned in his official curriculum vitae. He also survived the Long March of 1934-35, during which most marchers died, the Civil War, and the Cultural Revolution, in which he was twice purged but under Mao's dark protection was not killed.

Along the way he was, in the late 1920s, secretary to the Central Committee, one of the handful of most senior commanders in the key battles of the 1945-49 Civil War, a member of the Central Committee, and finally, by 1956, Communist Party Secretary-General.

In short, Mr Deng had the qualifications, no longer available in China, of historical fame, of early association with the men who created Communist China, and of having held key positions in the party, army and bureaucracy. For decades he knew everyone's strengths and weaknesses and built up that invaluable Chinese cat's-cradle of *guanxi*, or connections, upon which depend political success and literally survival.

Mr Deng had none of what the former American President, George Bush, called "the vision thing", except in one sense for which Chinese will remember him.

All their modernising leaders since the 1850s had wanted the country to be *fu-qiang* — rich and powerful. But Mr Deng, unlike Mao who thought poverty bred virtue, genuinely wanted individual Chinese to be rich, and during the last 15 years of his leadership many became better off than at any time in history, although 100 million continue to live on less than £31 a year.

Peasants virtually own the land they till and anyone who feels like starting a business is welcome to try. Western knowledge, but not political ideals, is welcomed.

The collapse of the Soviet empire proved invaluable to Mr Deng, giving many Chinese and some foreigners the (ultimately false) assurance that economic change and political oppression are the keys to successful modernisation. What saved China from a Soviet-style collapse in 1989 was that, unlike the Russian Army, the People's Liberation Army was prepared to shoot down unarmed protesters in the streets of the capital.

Mr Deng's political reforms were confined to streamlining — more efficiency — and the appointment to top jobs of men who were able, as well as politically reliable. But if like Hu Yaobang and Zhao Ziyang they wavered in smashing the party's enemies, no sentiment protected them from dismissal.

After Tiananmen, his chosen protégés were dull figures, often trained in Stalin's Russia, lacking the late Hu's panache and Mr Zhao's vision. Mr Deng handpicked Jiang Zemin, the former Mayor of Shanghai and a former minister of some importance, within six weeks of the Peking killings to be "the core leader". Mr Jiang now holds more supreme offices at one time than anyone since Mao. But in the lower ranks Mr Deng made no objection to the promotion of specialists, some of whom had been known to oppose him during the Tiananmen crisis.

Foreigners who challenged China were faced down. During Tiananmen, Mr Deng was said to have told his colleagues not to fear international opinion or spilling blood, and within days of the killings he congratulated the army for acting as a "Great Wall of Steel", while reminding it in almost the same breath that the economic reforms would continue. He endured two years of China's status as pariah, but before long Germany, France, and Japan were beating on China's door. The once haughty Russians were also begging for favours and President Clinton was defied.

Apart from wanting his people to get rich, Mr Deng's social outlook was limited to attacking Western notions as "bourgeois liberal" or "spiritually polluted". His years in France seem to have given him the skills of an underground conspirator, but no appreciation of the ideas that created Western capitalism. Mr Deng probably went to his grave thinking that technology was the secret of Western power, a blindspot in the leader of a country which professed to be ideologically driven. But there is little evidence in Mr Deng's writings — re-edited to make him appear perpetually wise — to show that ideas interested him except in so far as they could provide validity for power.

Perhaps this is why Mr Deng is responsible for two Chinas.

Rich Chinese from north to south, high-rollers in limousines with pretty girls dripping with gold, turn out to be either ex-Red Guards or, more astonishingly, ex-Tiananmen demonstrators who once yelled "Down with Deng Xiaoping". This is the China of stock markets, currency swaps and bankruptcies, where everything is for sale, from a single bed in a hospital to a senior leader's calligraphy on a shopfront.

Then there is the other China, not dripping with gold, its workers often unpaid by their employers or, if they are peasants, by the Government.

Without the vision thing, this is the China of tens of millions of illiterates, employers who refuse to hire women, high medical bills, tens of millions of floating workers, 200 million under-employed or unemployed peasants, environmental damage, crashing planes, gangsters, drugs, prostitution and Aids.

Leading article, page 21
Obituary, page 23

Deng Xiaoping with Chairman Mao in 1959, top, and with his wife, Zhuo Lin, in Shaanxi's Taihang base area in 1939 after their marriage in Yanan

Deng, 16, at the Collège de Bayeux in 1921

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS
With interest rates from
12.3% APR*
you can afford to borrow more
SEE HOW WE COMPARE

Lender Typical Example	APR	[illegible] 48 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Paid	Direct Loan Saving
RB Direct	[illegible]	£124.16	£5,959.68	[illegible]
TSB	[illegible]	£137.95	£6,621.05	[illegible]
Barclays	[illegible]	£134.70	£6,465.60	[illegible]
NatWest	[illegible]	£134.10	£6,436.80	[illegible]

Code TT3
PHONE FREE NOW FOR AN IMMEDIATE DECISION
0800 121 125
LINES OPEN 8AM-8PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM-5PM SAT, 10AM-4PM SUN

Magnet
UP TO 50% OFF
KITCHEN & BEDROOM CABINETS
FREE DISHWASHER
WORTH £599.99 (RRP)
ADG993
when you spend £3,250 or more (excluding installation)
MUST END SOON

50% OFF
AWG 320
WASHER/DRYER
when you spend £3,250 or more
(excluding installation)
SHAKER CREAM-40% OFF
CHOOSE FROM 50 KITCHEN & BEDROOM RANGES
ADDITIONAL Whirlpool OFFERS
FREE HOB with selected oven packs
FREE HOOD with selected oven packs
UP TO 30% OFF REFRIGERATION
ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS OF THESE AND MANY MORE OFFERS!
FOR YOUR NEAREST SHOWROOM CALL FREE 0800 555 825
Magnet
Food for thought
TI 54 Serving up beautiful kitchens between the hours of: Monday-Saturday 8.00-5.00. Selected branches open until 8.00 on Thursday and 10.00-4.00 on Sunday. Check each branch for details. Discounts are off price lists available between 25th November and 26th December 1996 including introductory offers on Romantic and Modern Bedroom collections.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Nato applicants 'sold weapons to terrorist regimes'

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

SEVERAL countries hoping to join Nato soon have sold arms to regimes that sponsor terrorism, according to reports of leaked Central Intelligence Agency documents.

Poland, a front-runner to join the North Atlantic security alliance this spring, made five shipments to Iran of T72 tanks, the most recent last summer, according to the "top secret" report cited by *The Washington Times*.

The newspaper's leak comes as Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, is touring nine European capitals. She has put the expansion of Nato at the top of her agenda in her talks with European and Russian leaders.

The CIA said yesterday that it could not comment on the existence or content of any documents. According to the newspaper, the CIA report, dated October 2 and entitled "Arms transfers to state sponsors of terrorism", focuses on deals made last summer.

The report identifies China, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Russia and Iran as the main suppliers or brokers of arms to what are in Washington's view terrorist nations. However, it also records details of deals by companies in Poland, Slovenia and Bulgaria, all of which are prospective candidates for Nato membership.

The 16 present members of Nato, meeting this spring to discuss enlargement, are expected to invite Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and possibly Slovenia to join. Other Central and East European nations have asked to be considered for membership of the alliance.

Trade with "terrorist states" is against American policy and the State Department's annual report calls for "bringing maximum pressure on states that sponsor and support terrorism by imposing economic, deplomatic and political sanctions and by urging other states to do likewise".

According to reports, the CIA has identified a company in the former Yugoslav republic of Slovenia that was involved in a deal to supply M60 tank transmissions and other tank parts to Iran. It appears that the Slovenian Government halted part of the shipment in response to American government protests.

The documents also say that Ukraine has concluded deals with Libya to sell short-range missiles and to service Libyan submarines and surface vessels. The Ukrainian Government says that no contracts have been completed.

Albright promises to find Cyprus solution

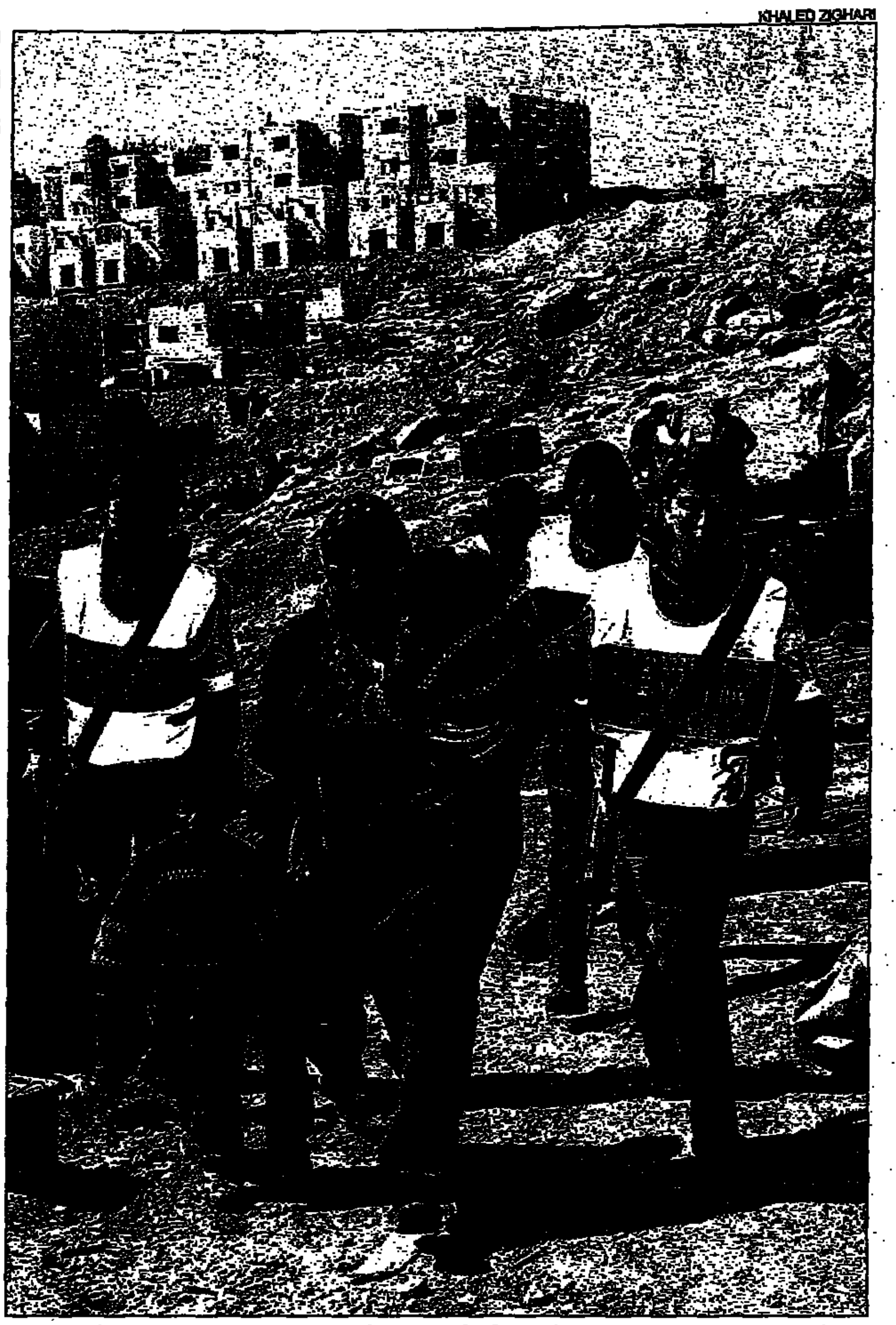
BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMERICA will redouble its efforts to get a political solution in Cyprus and calm rising tensions in the eastern Mediterranean, Madeleine Albright promised John Major yesterday.

Ms Albright, on her first visit to London as American Secretary of State, was also expected to brief Mr Major and Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, on her proposal for a joint Nato-Russia brigade and America's determination to overcome Russian opposition to the enlargement of Nato. Mr Major was expected to give a warm welcome to her proposal, seen in Whitehall as an important signal that Washington is beginning to respond to Russian concerns.

In a survey of world troublespots, she was expected also to discuss Bosnia and the continuing allied efforts to bolster the fragile political process: Hong Kong and the likely fallout should Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese senior leader, die soon: and the trade and airline disputes between America and Europe that have soured transatlantic relations.

KHALED ZIGHARI



Israeli Army police remove the last Beduin from their West Bank compound yesterday before bulldozers clear homes to make way for a expanded settlement

Israel steps up pressure to stop bizarre spy trial

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday summoned the Egyptian Ambassador to express displeasure over Cairo's decision to put on trial an alleged Israeli spy said to be mixed up in a bizarre case involving sexual intrigue and women's underwear soaked in invisible ink.

The diplomatic summons signalled a worsening of already strained relations over the affair, which began in November when Azzam Azzam, 34, one of the few Israelis working in Cairo, was arrested outside his hotel on the eve of the third Arab-Israeli economic summit.

Last night Israel radio reported that David Levy, the Foreign Minister, had appealed to the United States to intervene to secure Mr Azzam's release. He is in a cell where his brother, Sami, told a Knesset committee he was "rotting away" in appalling conditions.

A personal appeal to President Mubarak by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, failed to secure his freedom. On Monday, Egypt announced that he will go on trial with three others on espionage charges that could end in the death penalty.

Also involved are Emad Abdelhamid Ismail, 34, an Egyptian, and two alleged female Mossad agents, Mona Ahmed Shawahna and Zahra Youssef Greis — both believed to be members of Israel's Arab minority. The women, in Israel, will be tried in absentia.

The charge-sheet says that Mr Azzam, an engineer in an Israeli-owned textile factory near Cairo, confessed to taking underwear soaked in invisible ink from the Israeli women and giving it to Mr Ismail.

In a twist worthy of the imagination of John le Carré, Mr Ismail was instructed to use the ink to write invisible messages about Egypt.

The indictment said that the two women both slept with Mr Ismail after picking him up in an Israeli nightclub. Mr Ismail reportedly told police that between March and October the women gave him $650 (£406) for information on Egypt, and promised him $1,000 a month for any more information.

No date has yet been set for the hearing at the Supreme Court for Security. Egyptian media reports said Mr Azzam, a member of Israel's Druze Arab minority and the father of four children, initially confessed but now maintains his innocence.

Salah Tarif, a Druze member of the Israeli Knesset, demanded yesterday that Israel's ambassador to Cairo be recalled to make clear the damage that the case would do to relations.

☐ *Moscow: Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian leader, called for an intensification of Russia's role as a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace process after talks yesterday with Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister* (Robin Lodge writes). However, there were no groundbreaking agreements or decisions.

SUE LLOYD-ROBERTS

Some of the children recently deported by the Saudis to Bombay

Saudis tell Indian beggars charity begins at home

FROM SUE LLOYD-ROBERTS IN BOMBAY

THE Saudis have had enough of the influx of beggars from the sub-continent: two flights from Saudi Arabia have recently disgorged their sad human cargo in the past two months and there are more to come.

Child beggars, preferably the handicapped, have been ferried to Saudi Arabia from the Muslim villages of West Bengal for over 20 years. It has become a big business, with thousands of rupees at stake for the organisers of the begging rings and rumours of the involvement of large investors, school teachers and local officials and politicians.

They target the season of Jah, when millions of devout Muslims descend on the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. For the average Indian such a trip is impossible, but 20 years ago two pilgrims from the Muslim region of Murshidabad in India made it, and the trade began.

"When they got to Mecca," explains Mannan Haji, from Murshidabad and a former member of the West Bengal legislature, "they looked so poor and scruffy that some Saudis, who are bound by the Koran to give 2½ per cent of their income to any beggar they meet, thought they were beggars and gave them their due." The word spread and thousands more went to claim this equivalent of a lottery win.

Perhaps tired of the financial strain on their citizens or as part of a crackdown on illegal immigration, the Saudi authorities have now rounded up touts and children and sent them back to India where the trail of fake passports, fake relations, duped parents and abused children has begun to unfold.

Murshidabad is generously irrigated by the Ganges, and the sight of rich paddy fields, water buffalo and villages alongside palm-fringed waterholes gives a false sense of well-being. But the majority of peasants are landless day labourers who earn 15 rupees, or 25p a day, enough to buy a kilo (2lb) of rice.

Brilliant flashes of a new silk sari, a heavy, gold-bangled wrist and a new brick house are the signs of a family who have benefited from Saudi largesse. But it can easily go wrong too.

Forty-six boys in Bombay, newly arrived from Saudi Arabia and still imprisoned in the holding centre, are stuck in the quagmire of Indian bureaucracy.

The authorities in Bombay say they cannot send them home until the authorities in Calcutta contact them. Calcutta says they are waiting to hear from Bombay. Clearly no one is in a hurry to see these now "worthless" young children again.

☐ *Sue Lloyd-Roberts' report on child beggars will feature on the BBC Nine O'Clock News tonight*

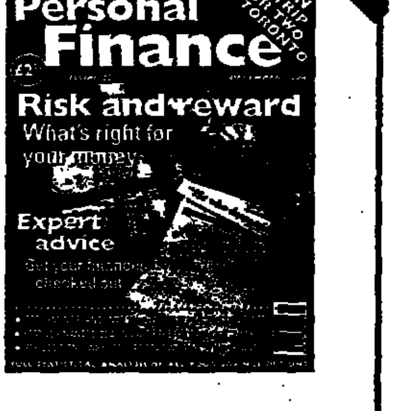
ANSWER YES TO ANY ONE OF THESE 3 QUESTIONS
AND YOU COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR
3-PART OFFER WORTH MORE THAN £17.50

SUBSCRIBE NOW AND SAVE OVER £17.50

1) Do you save any of your money? Yes ☐ No ☐

2) Do you feel that you should get more from your savings or investments? Yes ☐ No ☐

3) Would you like to find out how, from real experts who will never try to sell you a single product? Yes ☐ No ☐



Personal Finance magazine is written especially for those that are new to investing and saving, or have too little time to find out all about the options for themselves.

Each month the magazine explains all the complexities in everyday jargon-free language covering topics such as:

● **PEPs** ● **Pension and savings plan investments** ● **Investment Trusts**
● **Unit Trusts** ● **Life insurance**
...and much, much more.

All for only £2.25 each month from your newsagent. But take up this founder subscriber offer, and youll pay **less than £1.45 an issue.**

Part 1 - With this massive *37% discount* you may already be reaching for your cheque book. Well, hold on a minute. If you choose to pay your subscription by standing order - not only need you SEND NO MONEY NOW - but **we will hold your subscription at this price forever.* THEN THERE'S MORE.**

Part 2 -The jargon-busting *A to Z of Personal Finance* explains what all those complicated financial terms really mean. The news-stand price for this invaluable *companion publication to the* magazine is £2.50. **For subscribers to Personal Finance Magazine it's entirely free.**

Part 3 - *What PEP* gives you all the details on how you can get the most out of saving tax free. Published twice a year, the price of this publication is £2.50 per issue. ***For you both issues (worth £5.00) will be £0.00.***

So - whether you select standing order or cash - fill and send back this coupon right away (postage is paid) and we'll help make sure you find out how to make the most of your money.

I wish to become a subscriber to Personal Finance magazine for only £16.95 for 12 issues and claim The A to Z of Personal Finance (worth £2.50) and the two editions of What PEP (worth £5.00) both Free to subscribers.

STANDING ORDERS
Account to be debited
Account No
Signature(s)
To Bank
Branch
Address
Sort Code

Please pay Lloyds Bank, 6 Holborn Circus, London EC1 (30 94 31) for the credit of Personal Finance Magazine Account No 0829125 the sum of £16.95, and £16.95 on the same date each succeeding year until further notice in writing and debit my/our account accordingly.

I enclose a cheque for £16.95 drawn on a UK bank and made payable to Charterhouse Communications Group Ltd. ☐
Please debit my:
Access ☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Diners ☐
Card No
Expires End
Signature

IN ALL CASES PLEASE COMPLETE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
Name
Address
Postcode
Telephone

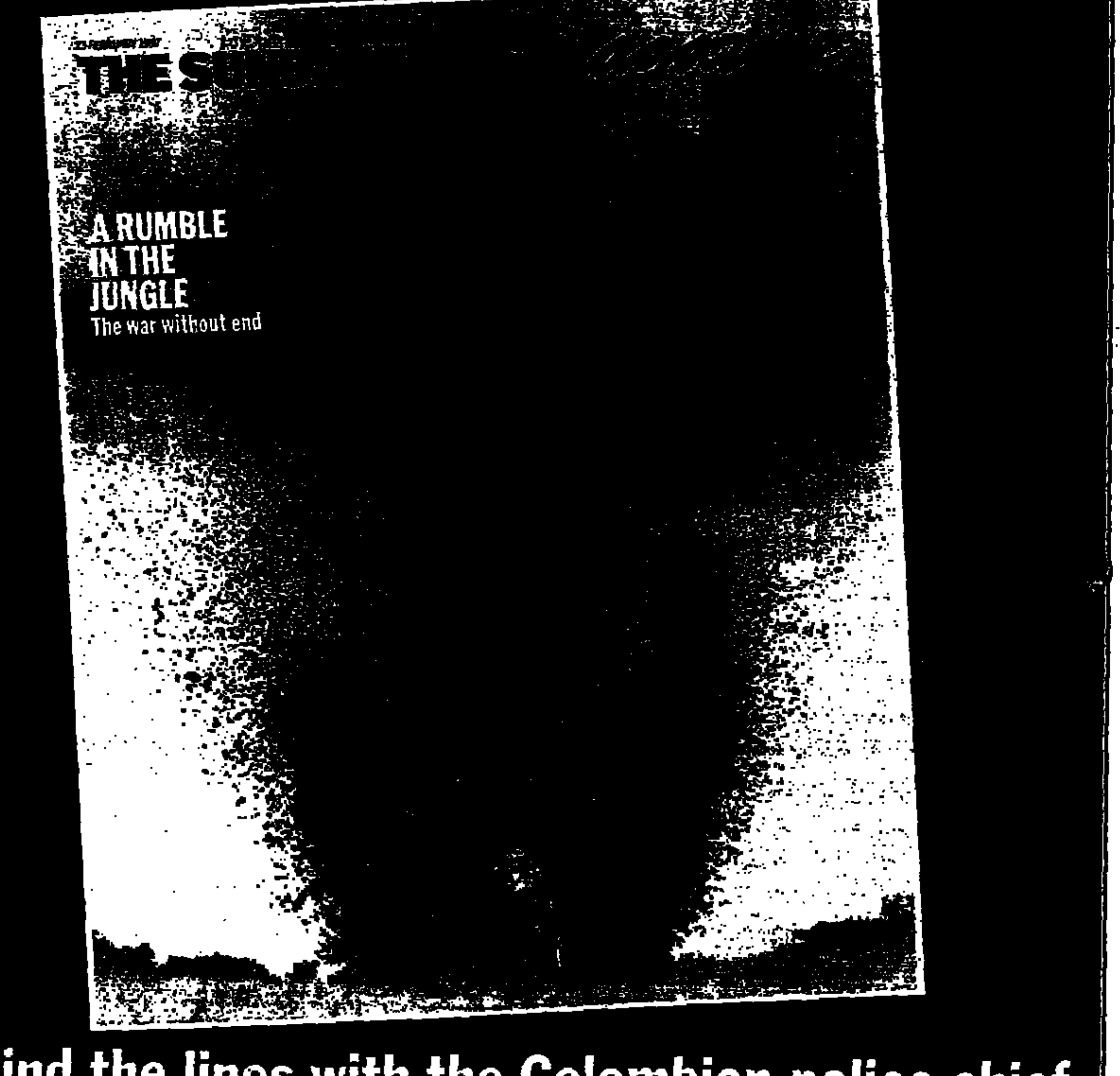
Complete the coupon and return to:
Personal Finance, FREEPOST,
4 Tabernacle Street, London EC2B 2BH

PLEASE ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY OFFER OPEN TO UK ONLY
*Subject to VAT or [illegible]

From time to time you may receive information from other carefully selected organisations about items that could be of interest. If you would prefer not to receive such information just tick here. ☐

TT 20/2/97

THE SUNDAY TIMES
WAR WITHOUT END



Behind the lines with the Colombian police chief

PLUS: FREE MAGAZINES OFFER
Don't miss your final token this Sunday towards a free copy of Vogue, Tatler, GQ or one of four other top glossies

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

5

Attacks on migrants kill hundreds in Indonesia

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN JAKARTA

THREE weeks of ethnic violence in an Indonesian province in Borneo have left hundreds of people dead and community leaders at a loss as to how to resolve the conflict.

In the only official comment on casualties, General Radin Hartono, the army Chief of Staff, said fewer than 300 people had died. Other sources say that the death toll could be in the thousands.

Munawir Sjadzali, chairman of the national human rights commission, would only say "it is still far too premature to release casualty figures" after a meeting with government ministers.

The unrest in West Kalimantan is between the indigenous Dayaks and migrants from Madura, an island off the northeast coast of Java.

It began on January 29 after a band of 40 masked men, believed to be from Madura, attacked a foundation that manages local Roman Catholic schools in Siantan Tengah, a district 40 miles outside the provincial capital, Pontianak. Two women were sexually assaulted in the incident.

Dayaks said this unprovoked action broke a peace agreement signed between the two communities after a week of violence at the turn of the year in which at least five people died.

The extent of the Dayak revenge and the military's involvement are unclear. Henri Ofmcap, a Dutch pastor, said Dayaks killed and beheaded up to 300 Madurese migrants in his three parishes alone.

There have also been reports of widespread cannibalism by Dayak warriors, as they re-enacted centuries-old customs of butchering and eating their enemies.

At least 3,000 additional troops were flown to the area to contain the unrest. They prevented people leaving their neighbourhoods by setting up dozens of roadblocks.

Witnesses claim that ten days ago troops shot at least 17 Dayaks who refused to disperse at a roadblock. Their bodies were buried in a mass grave in a nearby paddy field.

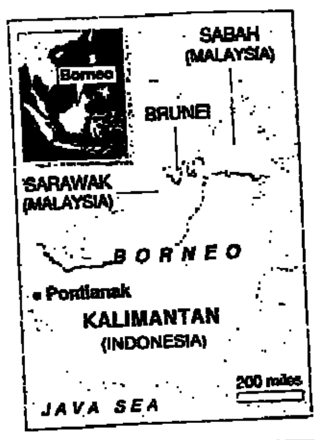
Malaysia became so concerned about the violence it closed its 12 border posts between West Kalimantan and its state of Sarawak for a week.

Edi Sudradjat, Indonesia's Minister of Defence and Security, has refused to comment on allegations of army brutality. On Monday he said the armed forces would continue to take stern measures against any troublemakers.

Dayaks have also set up their own roadblocks to prevent Madurese migrants fleeing to the safety of military bases.

One Dayak man, Ve Kader, said: "The Dayak people are saying to the Government that we are not prepared to accept the presence of Madura people in Kalimantan, particularly West Kalimantan. We are not going to rest until we have driven them all out of our rightful homeland." The Madurese moved to West Kalimantan as part of the Government's transmigration programme, designed to relieve pressure on the densely populated islands of Java, Madura and Bali. They now make up the majority of the province's four million population.

Many people believe those who have fled are unlikely to return. Mr Ofmcap said: "Their homes have been looted and destroyed and their land has been taken by Dayaks. There is nothing for them, even if they did want to return. It is little short of 'ethnic cleansing'."



NEWS IN BRIEF

Pakistanis send home $150m

Islamabad: Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister, collected $150 million (£94 million) within 72 hours of appealing to overseas Pakistanis for help to pay the country's foreign debts. He had promised to make the ailing economy a priority and launched a fund to pay off $30 billion in foreign loans.

Yesterday he won a vote of confidence — a constitutional requirement — from the new parliament. *(AFP)*

Tutu treatment

Stockholm: Desmond Tutu, 65, the former Archbishop of Cape Town, said he needs more cancer treatment. He had a prostate gland removed last month. *(Reuter)*

Medical briefing, page 18

Opium raids

Cairo: More than 2,000 soldiers and police used helicopters, camels and armoured personnel carriers for a three-day raid on plantations illegally growing poppies and hemp in southern Sinai. *(AP)*

5,000 flee fire

Hyderabad: Nearly 5,000 villagers were forced to flee from their Devaraplaly homes when a fire, which could burn for weeks, erupted in a state-owned oil well in southern India. *(AP)*

Beggars ousted

Calcutta: The Communist West Bengal government is to round up 30,000 beggars in an attempt to clean up the port city. They will be held in state-run facilities, the vagrancy department said. *(AFP)*

Gorilla attack

Beijing: Three gorillas that escaped from a zoo in Anshan, in Liaoning province, and ran through the city's streets, bit three people before being subdued, six hours later. *(AFP)*

FABRIZIO BENSCH / REUTER

Above left: Harry Dahl and Hans-Hermann Petzold. Top right: Gerd Zaumseil. Below right: Günter Jaeckel

Bonn knew of terrorist haven, say Stasi accused

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE elaborate attempts of communist regimes to shield fugitive terrorists are likely to be exposed in a trial of four former officers of the East German Stasi secret police, which began in a tightly guarded Berlin courtroom yesterday.

The first hint of the explosive nature of the trial came when one of the main defendants claimed yesterday that Bonn knew and approved of the hiding of wanted terrorists.

The agents, who worked in the so-called counter-terrorist department of the Stasi, are accused of providing new identities for at least ten members of the Red Army Faction (RAF). The terrorists were being hunted in the West for the killing of Jürgen Ponto, a top banker, and Hanns-Martin Schleyer, head of the West German Employers' Association. According to the prosecutor's 307-page indictment, the terrorists slipped from West Berlin into the East and were given money, passports and assistance in finding flats and work. Their cover collapsed in 1990 when the two German states were united.

If found guilty, the agents — Harry Dahl, the head of the counter-terrorism department, Günter Jaeckel, Hans-Hermann Petzold and Gerd Zaumseil, face five years in jail. Their defence teams argue, however, that they actually served the cause of world peace by taking the terrorists out of circulation.

The web of connections between the Stasi and international terrorism goes much further than the creation of new identities. Another trial in Berlin has shown that the Stasi knew of an attempt by Ilich Ramirez Sánchez, known as Carlos the Jackal, to blow up the French Cultural Institute in Berlin. The explosive was actually confiscated, stored and then released by the Stasi. The secret police also allowed terrorists to use an Interior Ministry training ground near the Polish border to refine their shooting and bomb-laying skills.

Herr Dahl, now 67, said yesterday that the sheltering of terrorists was condoned by the West. "The RAF members asked to be taken in. We did not approve of their deeds but their anti-capitalist stance was close to our socialist views ... Our main aim was to prevent a terrorist scene developing in East Germany."

South Africa hosts Zaire peace talks

BY INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Mandela announced yesterday that Laurent Kabila, the Zairean rebel leader, is to travel to South Africa for talks with representatives of the Government of Zaire as South Africa takes centre stage in international efforts to end the four-month civil war in Central Africa.

Mr Mandela, speaking after meeting President Museveni of Uganda and the Presidents of Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Botswana, said the two parties had agreed to meet "in order to discuss their problems" and were responding directly to an initiative by President Museveni that they should declare a truce and meet face to face as a prelude to democratic elections.

"It is a very good initiative from President Museveni where he is appealing for the parties to prepare for elections in Zaire," Mr Mandela said. "They are coming here because they want to respond to the initiative." Zairean government officials are expected to arrive today and Mr Mandela said that transport would be sent to the Rwandan capital, Kigali, to fetch Mr Kabila.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, joined Western diplomats in praising President Mandela's efforts. But the Zairean Government called a UN proposal to end the Central African country's civil war a "timid advance" that did not go far enough to condemn rebel support by Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

The peace plan, endorsed by the UN Security Council, calls for an immediate end to the fighting in eastern Zaire; the withdrawal of all foreign forces, including mercenaries; reaffirmation of the territorial integrity of all regional states; protection of refugees; and an international conference to resolve the conflict.

IT'S EASY TO MOVE YOUR MORTGAGE.

NO ARRANGEMENT FEE
3% DISCOUNT IN FIRST YEAR
NO VALUATION FEE
NO LEGAL FEES

MOVE TO WOOLWICH DIRECT.

4.29% (4.4% APR)

It's easy to move your mortgage to Woolwich Direct. Wherever you are, at home or at work, just pick up the phone and we'll give you a quote instantly for our Fee Saver Plus Mortgage. There's a real saving compared with our standard variable rate mortgage. So why not spend a few minutes finding out more about this excellent deal? Call us now quoting ref: TV202.

Get much more with

WOOLWICH DIRECT

0645 75 75 75

For your security, telephone conversations may be recorded. 8.30am - 9.00pm MON - FRI: 9.00am - 3.00pm SAT; 10.00am - 2.00pm SUN Internet address: woolwich-direct@e-mail.com

[illegible]

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. FSD18

PEOPLES PHONE

FREE SONY WALKMAN PERSONAL STEREO

Just connect to any one of these three superb GSM digital phones and get a Sony Walkman personal stereo absolutely free.

VODAFONE •
NO LINE RENTAL FOR 12 MONTHS

The perfect package with no line rental worries for a year.

Pay just £169.99 and get the superb Nokia 1610 and 12 months line rental.

NO CONTRACT
NO MONTHLY RENTAL
NO CREDIT CHECK

And 25 minutes of free calls. Vodafone PrePay – the ideal way to own a mobile phone with no strings.

ALL FOR ONLY £59.99

Assumes connection to CTN 7000

A FREE SONY WALKMAN PERSONAL STEREO WITH ANY OF THESE TOP GSM DIGITAL PHONES!

SONY CM-DX 1000e £49.99 ONLY
- 10 hours talktime
- 70 hours standby

NEC G8 £9.99 ONLY
- 120 minutes talktime
- 24 hours standby

MOTOROLA FLARE £9.99 ONLY
- 105 minutes talktime
- 17 hrs standby

FREE

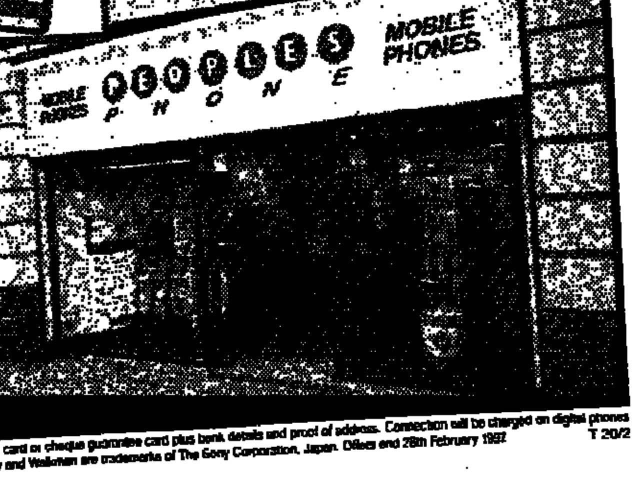
Free Sony Walkman personal stereo on presentation of this voucher when you connect to any of these phones.

181 STORES NATIONWIDE

CALL US NOW FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE OR FOR A FREE INFORMATION PACK

0800•10•11•12

Offers are subject to status, availability and connection on a new number to a new standard Vodafone digital airtime contract. Customers will need to provide a valid credit card or cheque guarantee card plus bank details and proof of address. Connection will be charged on digital phones at £35.25. Offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers. £169.99 package offer assumes connection to Vodafone PersonalWorld. Sony and Walkman are trademarks of The Sony Corporation, Japan. Offers end 28th February 1997 T 20/2



هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on a medical dilemma posed by prostate cancer, the benefits of screening for cretinism, a health drink that isn't quite wine and why more women are able to laugh with confidence

To treat or not to treat? That is the question

Dr Geoffrey Forman, of Detroit, had a happy smile on his face as he sat down to dinner in the boardroom of the Royal College of Radiologists this week. Dr Forman, a radiation oncologist, attends more patients with prostate cancer than any other doctor in the United States — and therefore probably in the world. Dr Forman's contented look was not only because he had just delivered a lecture at the Royal College which had been universally acclaimed, but also because he is one of the happy men who knows that his PSA is only 0.4 and therefore that it is extremely unlikely, almost impossible, that he is suffering from cancer of the prostate himself.

The PSA, prostatic specific antigen, is the blood test which helps to distinguish benign from malignant enlargement of the prostate. Prostate cancer is threatening to become one of the scourges of the 21st century. Doctors don't yet know what is the best early treatment, whether it is irradiation, surgery, or even possibly "waiting to see".

Dr Forman was lecturing on irradiation of the prostate as a way of offering a cure to patients who are suffering from early cancer of this gland. No doctor will dispute that a certain number of elderly patients die of other causes before their prostatic cancer catches up with them. These patients might well, in retrospect, have been happier left undisturbed by their medical advisers. Lord Olivier, for instance, survived for 21 years with cancer of the prostate before dying from multiple causes.

Doctors who advocate a wait-and-see approach suggest the treatment should be withheld until the growth causes trouble. Swedish doctors have been the most determined advocates of masterly inactivity. But, as Dr Forman said at the Royal College: "Could it be a coincidence that Sweden has the highest deathrate from cancer of the prostate of any sophisticated Western country?"

If treatment of cancer of the prostate is to have any chance of success, it must be started early, at the very stage when some doctors will still be advocating the wait-and-see policy. Even if the spread is only to the lymphatic glands in the pelvis near the prostate, it is too long to have waited.

Olivier survived 21 years with prostate cancer

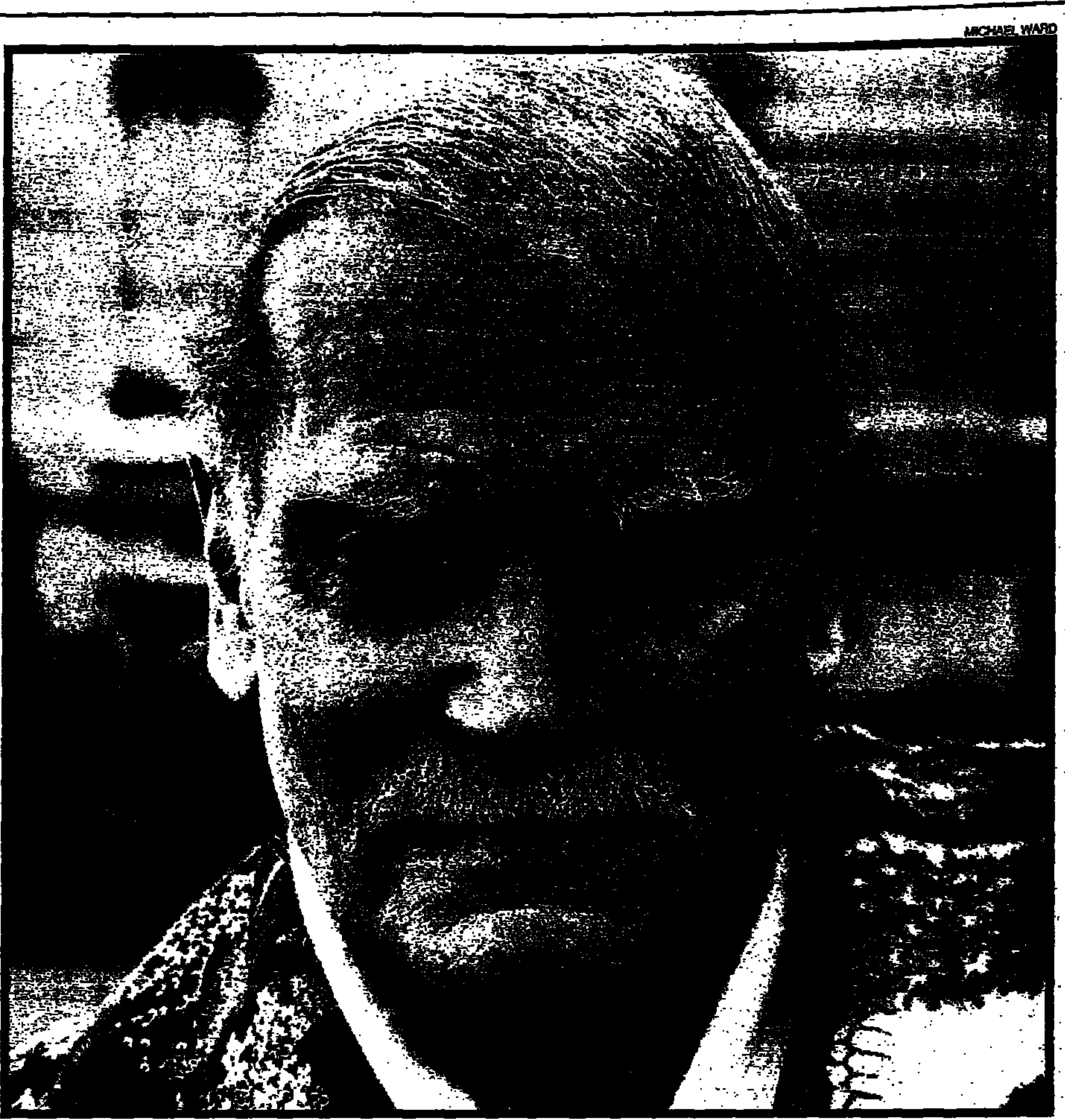
Dr Forman found that more than 92 per cent of his patients in America who had been treated early with mixed neutron and photon irradiation were free of prostatic cancer ten years later. He says that a high PSA in a patient who has a small gland is a more ominous sign than the raised PSA would be if the gland was larger.

In those rare cases in which the cancer is found in a patient with a PSA below 4, 97 to 98 per cent of Dr Forman's patients are free of prostatic cancer ten years later if they had immediate treatment. If the patient has a PSA of between 4 and 20, 92 per cent are also free of the tumour ten years later, but if the PSA is more than 20 when the tumour is diagnosed, the average long-term success rate is only 25-30 per cent.

Before everyone with a raised PSA rushes to the local hospital and asks for cyclotron treatment with the correct mixture of neutron and photron radiation accurately delivered by a carefully directed beam, they should think again, for no such treatment is available in Britain. The nearest centre is in Brussels.

The standard radiation used in Britain — which has no neutron component — has only a quarter of the effect on the cancer. Despite its greater power, mixed irradiation causes fewer side-effects on the bladder than standard treatment and there is a comparable rate of damage on the rectum. The impotence rate after standard radiation and after cyclotron treatment is also the same, and is about half that which follows radical surgery. In Britain, the dose of radiation given to an average tumour of 4-5cu cm is the same as given for a vocal cord tumour of an average size of 4 to 5mm. A larger dose would cause too much damage to other pelvic organs.

Treatment is still as much a matter of philosophy as medicine. In the very likely event of having a high PSA myself one day, and if I was rich enough, I would fly to Detroit for a mixture of neutron and photron irradiation. In Britain, I would opt for radical surgery.



MICHAEL WARD

Some doctors say that the best approach to prostate cancer is to wait and see. Despite the disease Lord Olivier lived to be 82

Screen tests with a happy ending

ONE weekend recently I didn't return to my home in Norfolk, and so missed the anguished telephone call of someone whose grandchild had just been born with hyperthyroidism — a condition that in the past used to lead to cretinism.

The term cretin is now rarely used in its medical sense, as the disease has become so uncommon that its sole use seems to be as a tasteless insult.

A cretin is a child who has grown up physically and mentally handicapped, with a short stature, dry skin and an unusual face like a caricature of the late Lord Beaverbrook. These signs and symptoms occur only if the lack of thyroid activity is not diagnosed early, and treatment is started too late.

In the best maternity units, a baby's blood is tested for thyroid levels. If they are found to be low, the child is immediately started on additional thyroxine. So long as treatment is started at once, the child should develop as well as anyone else.

I was able to assure the worried grandmother that she was young enough to live to see her granddaughter flourish, and — provided that the genes were right — win a scholarship to Oxford, or play hockey for the county.

Neo-natal screening for hyperthyroidism is an example of screening at its best. It easily applied, there is no discomfort to the baby and any abnormality can be treated.

Cheers — and the best of health

It was Plato's opinion that nothing more excellent, nor more valuable, than wine was ever granted to mankind by the gods. But some people's drinking is limited for medical reasons — longstanding liver or any pancreatic disease, for instance.

This means that they have missed out on the proven cardio-protective powers of red wine and its as yet unexplained beneficial influence on all-cause mortality — the medical profession's jargon for the overall deathrate. The benefits of alcohol are, of course, limited to those who drink in modertion.

Today, scientists are meeting at Downing College, Cambridge, to discuss the advantages to health of red wine. On the agenda will be the French paradox — the ability of the French to have a high fat diet but a low coronary heart disease rate. This is attributed to a liberal intake of red wine, coupled with a diet rich in fresh fruit and vegetables as well as olive oil.

The scientists will also be discussing an alcohol-free drink, Nutrivine, which is said to contain all of the polyphenols believed to be responsible for the health-giving properties of red wine. The polyphenols include flavonoids and other anti-oxidants which are contained in the skin and pips of grapes. When white wine is produced, these are removed early and play no part in its production.

Some years ago, Dr Alan Howard, of Cambridge, and associates who were interested in the relationship of anti-oxidants, free radicals and blood fats such as low-density lipo-protein cholesterol with the benefits of red wine drinking, decided to make use of the European "wine lake".

The scientists, with the co-operation of the University of Montpellier, devised a way of extracting all the polyphenols from the grape skins and seeds which were being processed at a distillery run by local farmers in the Ardèche region of France. The residue after distillation of red wine, made from cabernet sauvignon grapes, contained 1.6g of polyphenols per litre of wine. Only .2g could be extracted from a litre of white wine.

The Cambridge team flavoured the extracted polyphenols with blackcurrant, diluted the mixture with Evian water, which is low in calcium (tap water when mixed with the grape extract forms a scum), and gave it to healthy volunteers in Cambridge.

Other local volunteers were provided with equivalent amounts of red or white wine, or white wine with added extracted polyphenols. The changes in the blood chemistry that are associated with the activity of the anti-oxidants, and therefore with the red wine's protective effect, were observed. In those volunteers who had red wine, the polyphenols, or the polyphenols plus white wine, the potential beneficial effects of polyphenols could be detected in the blood. But no such advantageous changes were seen in those who drank plain white wine.

The new drink, Nutrivine, is being launched in Malaysia in March. There many of the local residents are teetotal, but in future it is possible that their hearts, and the hearts of all non-drinkers, can be protected by drinking a sachet of the polyphenol extract suitably flavoured and dissolved in bottled water.

The mixture will be exactly equivalent medicinally and chemically — but not in other ways — to the half-bottle of claret I shall be enjoying in the Reform Club this evening.

Wine: a health boon

Beautiful way to hold it all in

THE obstetrics and gynaecological department at St George's Hospital in London has had more than its share of unwelcome publicity this week. However, professional discord in its fertility unit and the medico-legal problems which are unleashed when a pregnant patient refuses the treatment that may be necessary to save a baby's life, shouldn't distract from its excellent research.

St George's has become an established centre for the treatment of prolapse, and associated incontinence. At least a third of women who have had children, and many who haven't, find that in early middle-age they start to leak urine when they cough, sneeze, or lift anything.

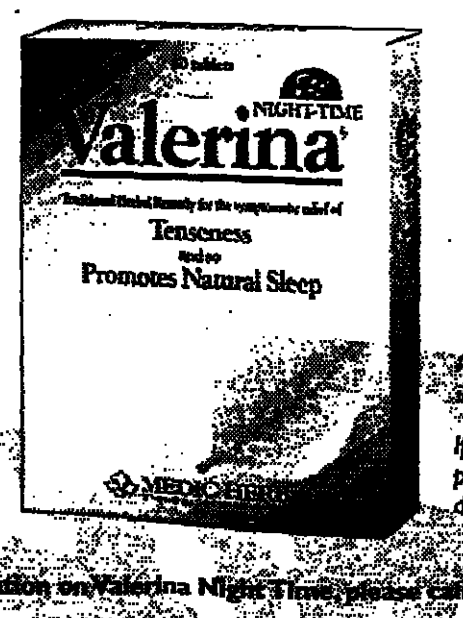
St George's has been carrying out a trial using a submucosal periurethral collagen injection instead of an operation to treat such stress incontinence. Collagen, similar to that used to enhance the pouting of the lips of a model, is injected around the urethra, the passage down which urine travels.

In trials reported in the British Journal of Obstetrics, periurethral injections were given to 32 women over the age of 65, 80 per cent of whom were cured without admission to hospital. Research undertaken by Mr Ash Monga and Mr Stuart Stanton at St George's, shows that the injection does not cause any obstruction to the urine, but the pressure transmitted by the collagen around the urethra encourages the bladder neck opening to remain closed.

SAFE · STRONG · HERBAL

GOOD NIGHT VALERINA

Valerina NightTime contains 400mg of valerian, a traditional herbal remedy for the symptomatic relief of tenseness and so promotes natural sleep. Its active herbal ingredients, hops and soothing lemon balm help you wake refreshed, and without a 'morning after' feeling. Clinically researched Valerina Night Time is the modern way to help your body make the most of its natural sleep. So if you want good nights and great days, try Valerina Night Time.



Always read the in-pack leaflet.

If symptoms persist, please consult your doctor.

For more information on Valerina Night Time, please call 0181 580 8847.

Available at Boots, Holland & Barrett, chemists, and health food stores.

CLINICALLY TESTED · EFFECTIVE

OR get up to 25% no claim discount on your home contents insurance with Eagle Star.

Interested?

Call 0800 333 800

EAGLE STAR Direct

Eagle Star Direct offers a 10% no claim discount for customers with 3 consecutive claim free years with any insurer. The discount rises to 25% after 2 further claim free years with Eagle Star Direct. Phone for a free home insurance quote weekdays 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-2pm.

What makes a man a modeliser?

They are men who could pick beautiful intelligent women from any sphere of life. But they always seem to end up with a model

The scene is the Hotel Inter-Continental in Paris, where Yves Saint Laurent's *haute couture* show is drawing to a close. Smiling and clapping, the models glide back towards the wings.

Once out of sight, serenity evaporates. Sandwiched between clothes rails, they are out of their ballgowns and into their own clothes. Moments later, the room is full of people. There is Yves Saint Laurent himself, Catherine Deneuve, assorted fashion editors — and a middle-aged man in a blazer who slips down the side of the room without anyone seeming to notice.

"You looked wonderful today," he tells Carla Bruni. She nods, smiles, looks distant. "Will you be doing the next Yves Saint Laurent show?" Carla says something noncommittal. Her smile is glassy. Mr Blazer leans closer, and opens a pocket book: "Could I have your phone number, please?"

The Italian equivalent of "ohmigawd" flickers across Carla's face. Her nostrils flare, her cheekbones flush red. "Models are not for sale," she snaps, enunciating each word before she sweeps past him, her eyes flashing with displeasure.

The only unusual thing about the incident is that it should have occurred within the fiefdom of the *cravattes rouges* — the blank-faced security men who guard the entrance to the shows. In places beyond their control — the bar of the Paris Ritz, fashionable nightclubs, coffee bars close to the agencies — men like this are watching and waiting to make a move on some of the most beautiful women in the world.

Candace Bushnell, who writes the *Sex and the City* column in the *New York Observer*, has coined the word "modelisers" to describe men whose driving ambition is to bed models. In the world of her column, they are slick Europeans who try to seduce innocent American models ("bambis") with lines such as "I'm convinced threesomes are good for your psyche, emotionally".

"Modelisers are a particular breed," Ms Bushnell says. "They are a step beyond womanisers, who will sleep with just about anything in a skirt. Modelisers are not obsessed with women, but with models."

It's a bleak, cynical picture, but Ms Bushnell is undoubtedly right that for some men, the only women worth having are those with a model agent. Such men are not all "toxic bachelors", as Ms Bushnell would describe them.

The obsession with models, though of a more innocent kind, seems to extend to men who are themselves judged highly desirable — rock stars, Hollywood actors, scions of wealthy dynasties. These are men who could pick beautiful, intelligent women from any sphere of life, but who always seem to end up with a model.

Take Richard Gere, who married Cindy Crawford, now dates Laura Bailey, and has also been linked with model-turned-actress Vanessa Angel and former Bond girl and model, Carey Lowell. Another example — albeit less clear-cut — is Bryan Ferry, who lived with Jerry Hall before marrying Lucy Helmore, the daughter of a Lloyd's broker, who was a model.

Jerry Hall famously left Bryan Ferry for Mick Jagger, whose interest in models came later in life (neither Bianca Jagger nor Marianne Faithfull was a model). Jagger's affairs are well documented. In 1992, he strayed into the arms of Carla Bruni. Last year another model, Nicole Kruk, told of her encounter with Jagger on a hotel couch, and the Czech model Jana Rajlich allegedly welcomed him into her hotel.

Grace Bradberry

No wonder Ms Hall appears to consider heterosexual men a danger to young models. In a recent interview she tells how she arrived in Paris at the age of 16 and "was lucky to find a circle of male friends who were all either gay or transvestites".

But the vast majority of modelisers are not famous, merely rich. The high profile of models appears to be part of their allure. Paula Hamilton, a former model, suggests that "it's a normal thing to want to be attached to someone who's getting a lot of media attention". Normal perhaps, but scarcely admirable.

Not surprisingly, modelisers are "a kind of standing joke", says Angela Dunn, an Australian catwalk model. She identifies Les Bains, the Parisian nightclub much frequented by the fashion crowd, as a legendary hunting ground for modelisers. "They tend to get tables by the dancefloor, then later in the evening they'll start to schmooze. Normally they've got a suit on, they're in their early thirties, unmarried and have slicked-back hair."

But they are not only indigenous to the Continent. "I can specifically remember one guy who was around when I first moved to London. Every couple of years I'll hear his name again. He's still taking out bevies of girls, buying them dinner on their birthdays."

On one level, it's easy to see why men would love models. Not only are they beautiful, but their beauty comes with an official stamp of recognition. They are well-groomed, well-heeled (in every sense), and independent.

But to chase models above any other kind of woman is effectively an admission that beauty is the principal criterion.

A few men can claim force of circumstance. "Photographers tend to meet models," David Bailey says — which may explain why he has dated Jean Shrimpton and Penelope Tree, and married Catherine Deneuve (originally a model), Marie Helvin, and now Catherine Dyer. It's no more surprising that Hubert Boukobza, the Franco-Tunisian owner of Les Bains, eventually settled down with a model. He and Kristen MacMenamy live in the 16th arrondissement with their daughter, Lily.

But something deeper than circumstance must surely drive Tim Jefferies, the grandson of the Green Shield stamps founder. Since his marriage to Koo Stark, which ended in 1989, he has dated the Australian model Elle Macpherson and Ines Sastre, a Spanish model who became the Max Factor girl. The names of American models Terri May and Denice Lewis have also appeared alongside his in the gossip columns.

Until the age of 21, Jefferies had lived the life of any other young man in a provincial town — but then he inherited part of the family fortune. Access to a "higher" social echelon was suddenly within reach. As Elle's other half he gained admittance to jetset parties whose door policy demanded glamour as well as wealth.

The social mobility of models adds to their eligibility. The most successful are on everybody's A-list. No matter how blue blood the party, a few appearances in *Vogue* will make up for lack of family pedigree. Ultimately they possess a social neutrality not to be found elsewhere.

This is appealing to those whose own position is fluid. Jamie Packer, the son of Kerry Packer, Australia's most famous tycoon, has dated Tania Bryer (a model turned TV presenter), Nicola Formby and Jennifer Flavin, who also dated Sylvester Stallone.

But the neutral position of models is equally attractive to those whose social ranking is fixed. Aristocrats who prefer not to marry within the limited circle of their own kind — and who don't wish their fame to be confined merely to Nigel Dempster's column — can marry a model and be confident that *she* will be accepted and *they* will be photographed. This does not guarantee that the marriages will be successful. Earl Spencer is now separated from the model Victoria Lockwood, who became anorexic.

The marriage of Lord Brockett to the model Isabell Lorenzo, an American, also failed, even before he was arrested for fraud.

The flip-side of the modeliser syndrome is that most society women are now models. Tara Palmer-Tomkinson is a case in point. After *that* picture of Tara and friends, naked save for handbags over their bottoms, she has modelled for Ray-Ban and the skiwear designer, Sam de Teran.

Miss Palmer-Tomkinson's current boyfriend is Robert Hanson, the 36-year-old son of Lord Hanson, who previously dated the heiress and model Normandie Keith, followed by Brenda Schad, a former "face of Givenchy".

What these men seek may well be a woman removed from the grind of life. Idle aristocrats and leisured heiresses no longer exist — they all have jobs. To outsiders, modelling appears a sort of fantasy occupation. A model doesn't have to *do* anything, goes the myth, she just has to *be*.

> A model doesn't have to do anything, she just has to be

Richard Gere with Laura Bailey (left) and Vanessa Angel

Tim Jefferies with Ines Sastre (left) and Elle Macpherson

Close friends: Carla Bruni (above) who fell for Mick Jagger (far right with Jerry Hall); and Jamie Packer with Jennifer Flavin (who dated Sylvester Stallone)

FREE CALLS
EVERY MONTH
FOREVER

NEW NOKIA 1611 REPLACES 1610

FREE 15 MINS CALLS PER MONTH
FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE IN CAR ADAPTOR
FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY
100 HOUR BATTERY
PER SECOND BILLING
Off peak calls 15p (17.63p inc VAT) PER MIN
Peak rate calls 35p (41.13p inc VAT) PER MIN

NOKIA 1611
● Latest Nokia GSM Phone
● 3.5 hours talk time
● Supplied with rapid mains charger
£4.99
cellnet
Ref: CT12002

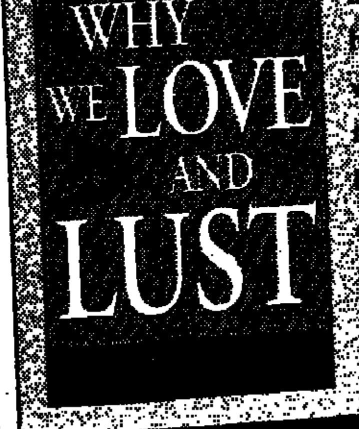
OPEN: Mon-Thurs 8am-10pm • Fri 8am-8pm • Sat 9am-6pm • Sun 9am-5pm
Have your credit card to hand and Dial-a-phone now on Freephone
0800 00 00 77
24 Hours
DIAL-a-PHONE
Limited offer subject to stock availability and a 12 month airtime contract through Dial-a-Phone (plus notice period) signed upon receipt of each phone. Itemised billing (£1.77 INC VAT per month) and payment by direct debit are mandatory. Free next working day delivery within mainland UK, Saturday deliveries subject to surcharge. Peak times are 7.00am-7.00pm Mon-Fri. Written terms and conditions available on request. Dial-a-phone Ltd. Registered No. 3080365 Unit 18, Kingsbury trading estate, Barningham Way, London NW9 8AL

Male or female – if you think you're in charge of your love life this book will prove you're wrong!!!

Why we Love and Lust shows how men and women can turn the tables on their hormones – and enrich their lives and relationships.

Thorsons

Available from all good bookshops or, for Visa and Access card holders, call our 24 HOUR MAIL ORDER on 0141 306 3349 quoting ref. 70J
ISBN: 0 7225 3356 X • £9.99 Paperback



MJN
The Award Winning British PC Manufacturer With World Beating Quality, Service and Value

MJN systems continue to win awards for quality, performance and value, and our entry level midi-tower system was again voted "Best Buy" in the current issue of What PC? magazine.

"One PC stood out from the rest, though. With top-notch specifications and performance ... The documentation and presentation fill you with confidence, making this the outright winner for our Best Buy award... This package has everything you need to get started and it's all top quality. An excellent buy."
What PC? March 1997 (current) Issue

Take a closer look at the new MJN 'Millennium' high performance systems which provide even better value and are upgradeable to or based on Intel Pentium® processors with MMX™ Technology.

MJN Offers End 28th February

The Millennium range includes higher specification multimedia, voice modem facility and come with a larger collection of software including Lotus SmartSuite 96, 13 CD titles including RAC Rally, EZ Language suite plus the very best educational, home and leisure software.

Printer Option
- Epson Stylus color 200 720 X 720 dpi inkjet printer £198.58 (£169+VAT)

Buy Now... Pay August
Interest Free Credit APR 0%
Interest Free Example: MJN Millenium 166+; Pay just £132.07 (10%) deposit and the rest after 6 months. Alternatively, pay the whole amount now for quick delivery.
Total price = £1099 + £25 delivery +VAT = £1320.70 APR 0%
Finance also available over a longer period of 2.5 years at APR 19.8%.
Finance is subject to status. Written details are available on request.

MJN Millennium 166+
- 6x86 166+ processor manufactured by IBM
- Upgradeable to Pentium® 200MHz MMX
- 32Mb EDO RAM
- 12 speed CD-ROM drive
- 33.6 V34+ voice modem
- 2.1Gb hard disk
- 15" SVGA 0.28dp screen
- 256K pipeline burst cache
- Fast 64-bit integrated graphics (use upto 2Mb system RAM)
- 16-bit stereo sound, joystick, microphone and premium (120w pmpo) speakers

£1291.33 inc.VAT
£1099 +VAT
Model No: 427

MJN Millennium 166M
- Intel Pentium 166MHz processor with MMX™ Technology
- Upgradeable to Pentium® 200MHz MMX
- 32Mb EDO RAM
- 12 speed CD-ROM drive
- 33.6 V34+ voice modem
- 2.1Gb hard disk
- 15" SVGA 0.28dp screen
- 256K pipeline burst cache
- Fast 64-bit integrated graphics (use upto 2Mb system RAM)
- 16-bit stereo sound, joystick, microphone and premium (120w pmpo) speakers

£1491.18 inc.VAT
£1269 +VAT
Model No: 428

MJN Millennium 200+
- 6x86 200+ processor manufactured by IBM
- Upgradeable to Pentium® 200MHz MMX
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- 32Mb EDO RAM
- 3.2Gb hard disk
- 33.6 V34+ voice modem
- 12 speed CD-ROM drive
- 15" SVGA 0.28dp screen (17" optional)
- ATI Rage II 3D graphics with 4Mb SGRAM
- SoundBlaster 32 hardware Wavetable sound card, joystick, microphone & Premium (120w pmpo) speakers

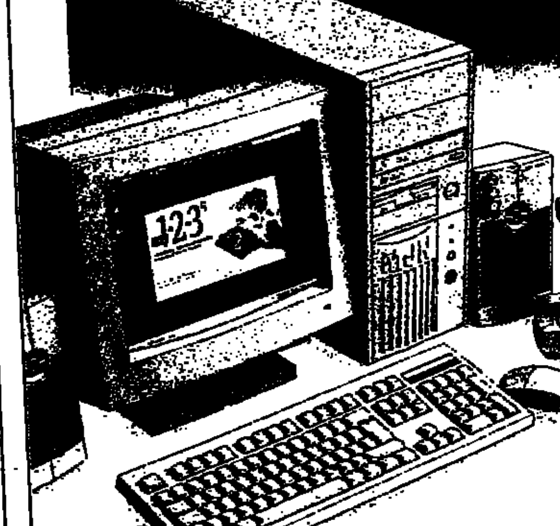
£1596.83 inc.VAT
£1359 +VAT
Model No: 419

MJN Millennium 200M
- Intel Pentium 200MHz processor with MMX™ Technology
- Full Tower case
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- 64Mb EDO RAM
- 3.2Gb hard disk
- 33.6 V34+ voice modem
- 12 speed CD-ROM drive
- 15" SVGA 0.28dp screen (17" optional)
- ATI Rage II 3D graphics with 4Mb SGRAM
- SoundBlaster 32 hardware Wavetable sound card, joystick, microphone & premium (120w pmpo) speakers

£1996.33 inc.VAT
£1699 +VAT
Model No: 429

All models include: 7 bay midi-tower case (9 bay full tower on 200M model), 3.5" floppy drive, PS/2 mouse, 105 keyboard, software MPEG, mouse port, 2 fast serial ports, parallel port, games port, Microsoft® Windows 95 and a massive software bundle.

MJN 01 282 777 555
Telephone sales lines are open Monday - Friday 9.00am - 7.00pm. Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm
MJN Technology Limited, Granville House, Blackburn Rd, Simonstone, Burnley, Lancs, BB12 7GT. Tel. 01282 777 555. Fax 01282 77 08 44.
All prices exclude delivery (£25+VAT=£29.38). Software applications are provided on CD or pre-loaded with on-line documentation. Screen sizes shown are CRT sizes as per industry practice. Pack shots are shown for illustration purposes only. Goods are normally despatched within 7 to 14 days. All orders will be fulfilled within 28 days unless otherwise notified. Specifications, prices and availability are subject to change without notice. Products sold subject to our conditions of sale copies of which are available on request. The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. *Systems upgradeable to 200M FT using MJN MMX Upgrade Service. Please Call For Details. E&OE.



هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Branson has no time for slow coaches

Magnus Linklater wants Labour to back the West Coast railway

The last time a gale like this one tore across the country, I was sitting in a lounge car on the West Coast line, somewhere high up in the Border hills. We were stuck. The overhead lines had blown over, the back-up diesel had broken down, and the prospects of reaching Edinburgh by lunchtime were minimal. Actually, things could have been worse. Once the business passengers had expostulated down the telephone and cancelled their important meetings, we all sat back, had some coffee and proceeded to complain very enjoyably to each other for the next four or five hours. We couldn't say much about "bloody British Railways" any more, because we were there courtesy of Caledonian Sleepers Ltd under contract to InterCity, and the gale-torn cables were the responsibility of yet another company, Railtrack. So we moaned about privatisation instead.

But the stuffing had gone out of the argument. For a start we were warm, we had hot food, newspapers, access to a telephone and friendly service. When I thought back to some of the lost hours I have spent with British Rail in freezing carriages where "due to a powercut there will no service from the buffet car", I found the notion of Richard Branson and his bid for the West Coast line strangely compelling. Anyone who has travelled on that route, once the jewel in the railway crown, knows that for 20 years successive governments have simply allowed it to crumble. Trains that were meant to travel at 110mph, cutting the journey from London to Glasgow to five hours, stuttered instead along old-fashioned tracks which suffered from subsidence, sharp curves, single-bore tunnels and outdated signalling equipment.

Surely, then, only the most curmudgeonly would complain about yesterday's news that Branson's Virgin Group has won the franchise to run the London to Scotland InterCity West Coast route, and that it intends to spend £750 million on a high-speed service which will cut the travelling time between London and Glasgow to less than four hours, to say nothing of typical Branson touches such as videos linked to the Internet and a home-to-station limousine service. If privatisation is irreversible then this must surely be the way forward.

That depends, and it depends in the end on whether Labour can take a deep breath and embrace a privatisation which it castigated not so long ago as "the poll tax on wheels", predicting that it would be enough to bring down John Major's Government. It is hard now to remember how fervently people like Brian Wilson and Clare Short campaigned against the iniquity of a privatised rail service. Barely 18 months ago, they were warning that this was a privatisation too far whose outcome hung in the balance. A succession of leaks suggested that safety was being compromised, the real cost of privatisation disguised, and the sheer complexity of the deals was unworkable. At that time they probably had public opinion on their side.

Things have changed. With Railtrack sold and all the remaining franchises likely to be let by next month, there is evidence that instead of the predicted disaster, things are working not too badly. In its first survey, the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising found that the first eight franchised companies had all either maintained or improved on their punctuality and reliability performances. Some services had ordered new trains and were running additional services. The rail-users committee reported that complaints were down by 30 per cent. My own anecdotal evidence comes from a conversation with the chairman of a shortly-to-be-privatised service who had once predicted doom and decline, but who was now warm in his praises for a system which allowed him to claim refunds from Railtrack for unpunctuality, and which meant that his arrival times had improved by at least 20 per cent.

It has not all been good news. In the South West, Stagecoach has cut 39 services a day, and elsewere there has been a marked failure to upgrade dilapidated rolling-stock. There are rumours that some of the deals are so tight that very shortly there will be demands for more public subsidy from some of the successful bidders, and there are still major questions hanging over the commitments made on new investment. But if share prices are anything to go by, there is no falling-off of enthusiasm, and if Branson's predictions are anything to go by, even the West Coast route, once known as the "InterSloppy Line" can be made profitable.

> We were warm, we had hot food, access to a phone

That is, if a future Labour Government continues to support it. Privatisation does not mean that governments can wash their hands of the railways, only that they cost the Treasury less. Branson will get nowhere unless Railtrack provides the estimated £1.5 billion needed to improve the track, signalling and station system between London and Glasgow. The company has to be kept to its side of the bargain, and it will look to a future government to continue its subsidy. If Branson is to rise to what he calls "the greatest challenge ever" and turn the West Coast line around, he will need the backing and, indeed, enthusiastic support of a future Labour Government. As one of the few genuinely popular capitalists around, he could just persuade the party that it would be worth their while.

The alternative is for Labour to turn its back on the railways, to leave the privatised companies to their own devices and blame any shortcomings on its Tory predecessors. That would certainly make good propaganda. But it would guarantee a rotten train service.

THREE MEN GUILTY OF INFLICTING PAIN ON EACH OTHER... (EURO RULING)

The runes of Wirral

If the Conservatives do well at the by-election, the reason will be Europe

William Rees-Mogg

The last weeks of a government are always difficult; when the Government is generally expected to lose they can seem positively ghostly. I find myself peeping from the cross-benches in the House of Lords at the government front bench, then peeping down at the Labour front bench, and then making the mental transposition.

How many hopes will be frustrated, egos bruised, careers interrupted — perhaps never to be resumed? How many others will their first use of the coveted red boxes? Yet one has to remember. The election has still to be fought. All is still to play for.

Conservative support is beginning to rally, if somewhat hesitantly. Ten days ago the Westminster Conservatives sent a coachload of canvassers up to Wirral South to help in the by-election. They were taken to a Conservative area and found that most of the Tory voters were in a general election rather than a protest mood. Some of the support was unenthusiastic: "I suppose we shall have to vote for them." Yet few of those who had voted Conservative in 1992 were refusing to vote Conservative again at the by-election.

There have been similar by-elections before. On November 7, 1991, the Conservatives lost two seats, in Kincardine and Deeside and in Langbaurgh, which is north of Scarborough. Both seats were won back at the general election in April 1992, but the two by-elections were quite different. In Kincardine and Deeside there was a huge protest swing of 11.4 per cent to the Liberal Democrats; at the general election there was an even bigger swing back, of 13.5 per cent. Plainly that was the last of the protest by-elections of that Parliament, and it gave no indication of the general election result. In Langbaurgh there was a swing to Labour of only 3.6 per cent, followed at the general election by a swing back to the Conservatives of 3.1 per cent. As the Wirral South by-election comes so close to the general election, it seems more likely to produce a Langbaurgh-type of result.

The Conservative vote will be particularly interesting. In 1992, Barry Porter won 25,590 votes; that was 50.8 per cent of the votes cast on an 82 per cent turnout; in 1987 he had won 24,821 votes, 50.2 per cent of the votes cast. At this by-election the turnout will fall, probably by about 20 per cent. A Conservative vote of 20,000 would therefore probably be enough to hold the seat. Current national opinion polls suggest that Conservative support has fallen by about a quarter since the last election; that would produce a Wirral vote of about 15,000. Anything less than that would be a disaster; anything close to 20,000 would be encouraging for the Conservatives; more than 20,000 would be a serious setback for Labour.

In Wirral South, the Liberal Democrat vote has already been squeezed; it fell from 10,779 to 6,581 between the general elections of 1987 and 1992. It may be squeezed still further this time, possibly almost to vanishing point. If Labour could get out the whole of its 1992 vote, plus half the Liberal vote, that would put it above the high target number of 20,000, but it would be an extraordinary achievement.

There is nothing the Conservatives can do to stop Liberal Democrats voting Labour. In the marginal seats in which Labour comes second, it seems likely that between a third and a half of Liberal Democrats will vote at least tactically for the Labour candidate at the general election. Obviously, Tony Blair appeals to Liberal Democrats, and current polls are showing a fall of up to a third in the national support for the Liberal Democrats as a party.

This factor alone could decide the election. If Labour had won half the Liberal Democrat vote in 1992, it would have had 43.3 per cent of the popular vote, against the Conservatives' 41.9 per cent. Even in 1987, half the alliance vote would have given Labour 42.1 per cent of the popular vote against the Conservatives' 42.2. Labour would probably have been the largest party in both the last two Parliaments if it had appealed to Liberal Democrats as strongly as Tony Blair seems now to be doing.

There were 69 Conservative seats in the 1992 Parliament that would have gone to Labour on a 5 per cent swing. If Labour had won all of them, the 1992 result would have been more than reversed: Labour would have had 340 seats to the Conservative 267. In these seats Liberal Democrat votes could have been decisive. Even in Great Yarmouth, which was the safest Conservative seat of these 69, the Liberal Democrats polled 13.6 per cent against a Tory majority of 10 per cent; in the more marginal seats a much smaller percentage of the Liberal Democrat vote would have put Labour in. It will be bad news for the Conservatives if the Liberal Democrat vote in Wirral South does completely collapse, as most people think it will.

One can use the Wirral result as a rough, and probably unreliable, ready reckoner for the general election. If one assumes some swing back to the Government, an even split of the Wirral vote would suggest a hung Parliament, a 3,000 majority would suggest a result like that of 1992, with the majority party holding about 335 seats to 265, and a 6,000 majority would mean a landslide, with seats divided 375 to 225. If, as early opinion polls suggested, Labour is going to win the by-election by a majority of more than 6,000, a Labour landslide at the general election becomes a probability.

The new element in the general election campaign is Malcolm Rifkind's statement yesterdaythat the Government is hostile to the single currency, and his challenge to Germany on European policy. This is matched by Gordon Brown's declaration in America that Labour is now the pro-Europe party. Tony Blair has tried, with great political skill, to deprive the Conservatives of election issues, except for devolution and the House of Lords. Brown has been dangerously frank. Those voters who are afraid of Britain becoming part of a European superstate are served notice that they should not vote Labour. The Tories are becoming the anti-federalist party.

This will accelerate the return of Conservative voters; it may win for Labour some Europhile votes, but there are many fewer of them. The European issue is increasingly becoming the outstanding election issue, which may suit Gordon Brown better than it suits Tony Blair. Yet the Conservatives will need to start winning Labour votes on the issue if they are to win the election. Margaret Thatcher turned the Labour Party's flank; can John Major do so?

At the Conservative Party conference John Major did play rather clumsily with the strategy of turning the class battle upside down. He must now be tempted to leave the "progressive" middle class to Tony Blair, just as they have been left to the Democrats in the United States. The professors of liberal arts colleges in New England did not vote for Ronald Reagan, but the "hard hat" industrial workers did. Gordon Brown has put himself and his party at risk. He could easily be portrayed as a Shadow Chancellor who will not be able to put up expenditure and has promised not to put up taxes, and as the Scottish politician who wants to hand over British sovereignty to Brussels, if not to Berlin.

This would be a good electoral swap for the Tories. George Orwell's patriotic working class has always had more votes than the readership of *The Guardian*. Tony Blair has been amazingly successful in this class struggle so far; he has reassured the middle class and made them feel it is safe to vote Labour. John Major has exactly ten weeks left in which to persuade a section of the working class that they will find it even safer to vote Conservative.

Note in reply to Baroness Blatch: She said in the House of Lords (February 13): "If someone burgles persistently, whether he steals a loaf of bread, a pint of milk, or 50p from a purse, he should receive a sentence of at least three years." I quoted her statement on February 17. In her letter to *The Times* yesterday, she writes: "William Rees-Mogg is wrong to imply that under the Crime (Sentences) Bill petty thieves will automatically receive a three-year prison sentence for a third conviction. They will not."

I never suggested that the proposed mandatory sentences applied to persistent petty thieves other than burglars, but they would apply to all persistent petty burglars, as Lady Blatch correctly stated in the House of Lords, and as I correctly quoted the baroness.

Art in Warhol's world

Rachel Campbell-Johnston on his vacuous legacy

It is ten years this week since Andy Warhol's life ended, not with a bang — though he is known the world over for being shot by a gun-toting man-hater — but a whimper. He died in his sleep after a routine gall-bladder operation in a New York hospital. The artistic revolution which he fired is fading towards a similarly inauspicious end. The ferocious Expressionist Willem de Kooning once snarled that Warhol had murdered art. But the truth is less dramatic. Diluted by countless derivations, the impact of Warhol's ideas gradually dissolves into weaker standards of achievement and increasingly watery aesthetic convictions.

Warhol's work has never moved me. It lacks the visceral passions that lift great art beyond its immediate cultural context. But this is not to deny its intellectual interest. Warhol has deservedly exceeded his own 15-minute allocation of fame. His museum in Pittsburgh ranks second only to that of Picasso in Paris as the largest single-artist museum in the world. Containing everything from used bus tickets to the odd shoe, it is a shrine to a man who turned all that he touched into a work of art.

For an artist who took pains to point out his own superficiality — "If you want to know about Andy Warhol just look at the surface of my paintings ... there I am. There's nothing behind it" — this is the sort of brazen irony he would have enjoyed. It is the satire that sparkles at the centre of his work. His mass produced images, so empty of content, so content with their emptiness, paradoxically have become some of the most distinctive in the world. All over the world people recognise the Campbell's soup cans and Marilyn Monroes as the work of the blank Czech with the platinum white wig.

Warhol may have declared that he thought it would be "terrific if everybody was alike", but the truth is that there was no one else quite like him. He had an intuition — a clairvoyance almost — which touched the flickering nerve of fashion. He recognised electronic technology to be a revolution, just as oil painting, etching or photography were once revolutionary.

His art may have been democratic in the sense that anyone could do it. Yet it took an Andy Warhol — and there was only one of those — to show the way. His fatal legacy was to finger the path to artistic fame to those who have little other claim to it.

Old-fashioned talent has been swept aside. Like the sad entourage of freaks in a torpid Warholian movie, young artists are spurred on to greater self-revelation by a voyeurism which makes them actually believe they are interesting. In a performance piece in Stockholm last year, Tracey Emin could be peeped at through a spyhole as, stripped naked, she painted a portrait of herself being mounted from behind. But what is the difference between her and the sad descendents of Warhol's superstars who we can watch at the flip of a TV channel, ripping open their lives for ringmasters such as Oprah Winfrey.

There was an originality in Warhol's transformation of taboo images into art. But shock has now become a puerile tool to awaken fagged-out vestiges of public outrage. Sarah Lucas, another notorious bad-girl of Britpack art, has produced lists of obscenities — the colloquial names of sexual parts and sexual practices — emblazoned on 4ft strips of paper.

And if Warhol propounded a superficiality in art, it was one touched with irony and dead-pan wit. I went to the opening of a show by the artist Gary Hume, a Turner Prize contender, at the Saatchi Gallery last month, but found in the bland surfaces of household paint only a null vacuity, unalleviated by assurances that two three-leaf clovers were a "decorative emblem", representing "the moment of conception and of artistic inspiration". The only artist present, as far as I could tell, was Charles Saatchi himself. He had created meaning out of meaningless paintings by placing them in the context of a gallery and a circle of glitzy but gullible guests.

This is not necessarily to say that conceptual art is always bad or that there should be a return to the more traditional techniques. The world is equally plagued by the mediocrity of stolid convention. There is room for diversion and expansion of ideas. Artists like Damien Hirst touch a nerve with their powerful images. Gilbert and George play, to subtle effect, with Warholian ideas of multiple reproduction and the artist as artwork. But there is a fine, yet decisive line between them, and someone like Angus Fairhurst, flopping around in a monkey suit in front of a video camera.

We live now in a Warholian world.

Motor mouth

MODESTY is the unlikely sentiment on display from Alan Clark, the lascivious Tory candidate for Kensington and Chelsea.

Writing about his Bentley Continental S, numberplate AC 1800, for the Backfire column in this month's *Classic Cars*, the old bloodhound says: "I deliberately understate the appearance of my own car having had the shiny wheels stoved matt black... Unlike (I assume) most owners I don't want other road users to think 'look at that rich git in his Bentley' — not until it's too late, anyway."

This "vaguely menacing but unflashy" black wheel-rim look "gives good protection against it getting keyed by a roaming Class-War activist". He tries in vain to establish why the Capri's instruments and tells of how his windscreen surround just popped out: "I've never heard of this happening to a 20-year-old Capri." He rounds off his tirade by asking some big questions of Bentley: "Who's in charge? Above all, who's responsible for inspection?"

- *Scratching away to try to cash in on the election is David Mellor, the self-satisfied MP for Putney, who has been hawking around a synopsis for a book. His proposal is a comparative study of Margaret Thatcher and John Major. At least one major publisher has turned up its nose.*

Organ grinder

SNEAKY pre-election tactics are under way in the Tory camp if we are to believe Labour's account of a radio phone-in on BBC Radio Gloucestershire. Diana Organ, Labour's candidate for the Forest of Dean, was in full cry expounding party policy on air the other day when the monotony was relieved by a call from a listener, styling himself Paul from Mitcheldean.

Mitcheldean Paul turned out to be Paul Marland, the local Tory MP, and Ms Organ has taken his intervention in poor humour.

THE TIMES DIARY

Stringer, a Welshman. Stringer, who made his name in America with CBS, rising to be president of the network, is said to have been talking to Channel 4 in the past few days.

Now in charge of an interactive company calley Tele-TV, he is one of the key fundraisers for new Labour in New York. Channel 4 may appeal to him, if remarks he made in 1995 are anything to go by. "After years of living with the rat-

Centre in London will stage plays put on by theatre critics having signed up our own Jeremy Kingston, Michael Billington of *The Guardian*, James Christopher of *The Express* and Nicholas de Jongh of *London's Evening Standard*.

A front-row seat in the stalls for *The Critics — Up for Review* has been reserved for Michael Bogdanov, director, who takes a dim view of critics. "If you have sweated blood for a performance," he said recently, "only to find it dismissed contemptuously as 'incompetent', you may be forgiven for wanting to revive the garrotte'."

- *Dismal news for Jonathan Hill, the Prime Minister's former political secretary. He hasn't even made the last 15 in the contest to replace Sir George Gardiner as the Tory candidate in Reigate. Sir George, however, need not worry about being overshadowed by his replacement. The best of the rest*

Princess Victoria of Sweden

queen, she has been ordered back to Scandinavia to run her country.

Under the Swedish constitution, the princess must stand in for King

LONG MARCHER

Deng's unequal legacy to modern China

Deng Xiaoping's long career, stretching back to his political apprenticeship to Zhou Enlai as a casual worker at the Renault Billancourt factory and his joining of the Communist Party 73 years ago, is a mirror held up to the turbulent history of China's Communist revolution. To the Chinese, and certainly to Mao Zedong, he was a talented apparatchik and a survivor, but hardly an obvious contender for the modern equivalent of the Mandate of Heaven that he managed by stealth and perseverence to claim. To Western eyes, this tiny, brusque man of formidable guile and willpower was a mass of contradictions.

Ever ruthless in the Party's defence, he was also several times, most notably in the Cultural Revolution, the victim of the arbitrary and cruel system of centralised dictatorship that he helped to forge. Zealous after 1949 in the enforced collectivisation of the peasantry and in the purges, first of landlords and then of intellectuals, which physically and morally impoverished China, he was to become after 1978 the man who successfully exhorted Chinese that "to be rich is glorious". Inventive and pragmatic in his drive for a prosperous China under the slogan of "four modernisations", he persecuted without hesitation or mercy all those who argued that China must also embrace the "fifth modernisation", democratic reform and accountable government. He was the architect of China's "opening up" to the outside world; but he was unshakingly convinced that foreign influences were a source of "spiritual pollution".

The man born with the name Deng Xixian to a minor local landowner in Sichuan bent like a reed before the gales of political fashion. Yet as a Communist, he was remarkably consistent. Everything that he did had the Party in mind. That was why he lauded the "wall of steel" with which the People's Liberation Army crushed the demonstrators of Tiananmen. But that was also why he cast orthodox socialist ideology to the winds, famously telling Chinese people that it didn't matter whether the cat was black or white so long as it caught mice. The point for Deng was that the Chinese Communist Party would not long survive the collapse of Communism in the West unless ordinary Chinese came to equate it with rising wealth. His reward is that to the Chinese who mourn his death today, he came at the end to stand — even after the horrors of Tiananmen and although the Party has become synonymous with corruption in high places — for a period of unaccustomed and deeply valued stability.

That, even more than the respect still accorded to the few remaining veterans of Mao's legendary Long March, accounts for his continued hold on the imagination of his countrymen. In many men, the long years which Deng Xiaoping spent in death's anteroom would make his final step over the threshold an event of minor significance. China's "paramount leader" officially retired in 1990, was already unable to make a speech when he was last seen in public three years ago and slipped rapidly thereafter into semi-comatose senility. The successors whose rivalry for supreme power will now intensify will be well pleased if the world's reaction is similar to that of Dorothy Parker when told of Calvin Coolidge's death — to shrug and say "how could they tell?" They will be even more pleased if foreign governments and investors take for granted Chinese assurances that a seamlessly smooth succession is already established fact. But they will be pleased precisely because the reality is otherwise.

China now enters on a period of uncertainty. That is for two reasons. The first is China operates through complicated and highly personalised networks of *guianxi*, or connections, between different power bases. None of the present "collective" leadership, whether it be the "core" leader, President Jiang Zemin, the grey Soviet-trained Prime Minister, Li Peng, or the reforming technocrats grouped around Qiao Shi, has the key to them all — let alone the authority over the armed forces that Deng enjoyed. The second is that Deng's revolution is changing China in ways that he never intended. Open windows "let in flies"; capitalism, even on "the Chinese model", is eroding the Party's monopoly on power because it requires shared information and devolved decision-making. While he lived, these contradictions could, with difficulty, be masked. From now on, they will be harder and harder to evade.

A PROPER SCEPTICISM

Rifkind is right to show his hostility to EMU

Try as ministers will, the carefully mixed cement sealing last month's Cabinet compromise on monetary union keeps cracking. The chinks are swiftly repaired, but not before exploring eyes have peered into the Cabinet Room through the slit briefly opened in the wall. What the public wants to know is whether the Government's studiedly pragmatic formal position, which is that Britain will not join an EMU based on fudged convergence criteria and does not see how that could be otherwise on the 1999 timetable, masks hardening opposition in the Cabinet to the single currency on grounds of principle. What Labour hankers to know, in addition, is whether a Cabinet split on EMU this side of the election would enable it to shift the spotlight away from its own ambiguous version, or more accurately, versions, of "wait and see".

The result, as every minister knows, is that their every word on this explosive issue attracts more scrutiny than entire speeches on other matters of policy. Yesterday morning on the *Today* programme, Malcolm Rifkind was deflected from his preferred theme, his speech in Bonn last night challenging Germany to explain how its ambitions for political union stop short of creating "a European state" that few European citizens want, back onto this hazardous EMU territory.

The Foreign Secretary repeated that there were "powerful arguments against a single currency" and that Britain had "no commitment in principle" to join. These arguments go back to Britain's Maastricht opt-out and are compatible with the Cabinet policy that Britain will "negotiate and then decide". But, teased that the Government was "neutral", he retorted that although very careful thought was needed before ruling it out completely, "on balance, we are hostile to a single currency".

In the calculation of Britain's interest which both parties say will be the ultimate test, there is a world of difference between the "yes, if" to which Labour has been leaning and "no, unless" that hostility implies. Even so, Mr Rifkind's frankness does not so much change government policy as make it more voter-friendly. John Major's immediate response was to reinforce the message by pointing out that Britain had sterling, that the burden of proof was on supporters of EMU to demonstrate that a change would be beneficial and that "we are not so persuaded at the moment". Had Kenneth Clarke not rushed, in defiance of accepted etiquette among Cabinet colleagues, to declare Mr Rifkind's remark a "slip of the tongue under pressure", it would have been a good day for the Government.

By fanning the flames in this way, as he has repeatedly done whenever EMU is in contention, the Chancellor does neither himself nor his party any favours. He gives Labour chances to play its best card, Tory divisions; and where his own position is concerned he reveals the nervousness and unsure touch of a man on the defensive. This is the more extraordinary in view of the strong doubts he now has, expressed in his interview with *The Times* on page 29, about the wisdom of going ahead with EMU before the countries that want to join have made sufficient progress with structural economic and labour reforms. On Europe's future, the Tories now have compelling arguments. Mr Rifkind rightly wants to take them to the heart of Europe. Mr Clarke's place is at his shoulder, not behind his back.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST LEGENDS

If Atlantis exists, we shall have to invent another imaginary city

Today's latest map of the mind locates Atlantis in Bolivia. Jim Allen, a former cartographic draughtsman and aerial intelligence interpreter for the RAF, says so, at length, in a book supported by photographs, charts and other toys of his trade.

Now an expert at making mountains out of microdots commands attention with such topographical identification. It is odd that the island suddenly swallowed up by the sea should re-emerge as a landlocked state. Especially one that has more of its land above sea-level than anywhere except Nepal. But Mr Allen has an answer for that. Atlantis lay in a plain surrounded by great mountains and canals. The Bolivian altiplano, with its volcano under Lake Poopó, could explain both legendary inundation and modern geography.

Since Plato first spun the tale in the *Timaeus*, category-confused romantics have been looking for the lost Atlantis. And their evidence has been assembled with as much emphasis as Mr Allen's. But until today, the best candidate was Thera. The volcanic eruption that blew Thera out of prehistory has been held responsible for other such catastrophe myths as Noah's Ark, the parting of the Red Sea to let the Israelites across before drowning the Egyptians, and the inundation of the Minoans.

But Atlantis was foundation and morality myth before guidebook. And the search for heroic lands of lost content, from Camelot to Shangri La, has been as productive as aerial photography. The modern passion for fantasy in films and books shows that the imagination has its own cartography, odder and older than physical topography.

As Stephen Hawking and his peers prove, scientists are more prone to romance than ordinary mortals as soon as they step outside the black holes of their specialities. For Michael Faraday first saw the connection between electricity and magnetism, and for that ended up with his face on the back of the £20 note as an English worthy. But Faraday was also a Sandemanian, holding incredible opinions of the unscientific world. If they really discover Atlantis in Bolivia, this may be a great day for the prehistorians and proto-archaeologists. But the rest of us will just have to invent another city of the mind. One that we can seek but never find.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Self-interest and the arms trade

From Air Vice-Marshal John Downey (retd)

Sir, On moral grounds the Bishops of Coventry, Durham and Oxford are clearly right to call for control over the arms trade (letter, February 15). But I believe one could support them by appealing to enlightened self-interest on strategic grounds.

The arms trade is most profitable to middlemen who can buy fully developed surplus weapons off the shelf, which bear no direct research, development or production costs. It is governments that bear all the high-tech R&D costs, and the desire to offset these is the principal motive behind direct governmental arms trading.

The problem is compounded by the fragmentation of Western arms production. In 1984 Michael Heseltine, then Secretary of State for Defence, pointed out that within Nato there were 11 firms in seven countries working on anti-tank weapons; 18 firms in seven countries making ground-to-air weapons; eight firms in six countries making air-to-air weapons; 16 firms in seven countries working on air-to-ground weapons and ten firms in seven countries working on ship-to-ship weapons.

Since then commercial regrouping and jointly-funded projects have reduced fragmentation, but the burdens are still formidable. All West European nations, and to some extent even the US, face R&D costs out of proportion to the production runs for their own national forces. Sales abroad are therefore a necessity rather than simply a bonus. In fact there is rarely if ever a net profit, merely an alleviation of the huge cost of nation-based defence procurement.

A further disadvantage is, of course, the lack of standardisation of equipment in Nato, which is likely to be aggravated by its proposed eastwards extension (letters, February 17): and the much sought-after European security system will heighten the need for more cost-effective defence and more integrated arms procurement.

These prospects, together with moves in Europe towards greater integration of foreign and defence policies, will create opportunities which we must not miss to agree rules for the arms trade.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. T. DOWNEY,
Windmill House, Bosham, Sussex.
February 16.

Sex education

From the Chair of the Society for the Advancement of Sexual Health

Sir, Critics of the report on teenage sex by the NHS Centre for Reviews and Dissemination, which advocates earlier sex education and sensitive sexual health services, suggest that these will lead to an increase in promiscuity ("Birth control advice urged at age of 11", February 15).

This belief is repeatedly contradicted by evidence and research, including that of the World Health Organisation. In fact, in countries such as Sweden and The Netherlands which offer consistent early sex education — at primary school years — young people are seen to delay first sexual activity.

The report further points to the vital importance of educational and health services — teachers, GPs and school nurses — working closely together to ensure young people are supported in developing the confidence to make decisions about their sexual health and to resist pressure to be sexually active. Only with such a collaborative approach will we be able to tackle our unenviable record of holding the highest teenage pregnancy rate in Europe.

Yours faithfully,
JO ADAMS, Chair,
Society for the Advancement
of Sexual Health,
PO Box 17,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
February 17.

TV 'stings'

From the Director of Programmes, Channel 4 Television

Sir, John Stonborough's partial interpretation of the way the programme code of the Independent Television Commission is used to police secret filming is seriously misleading (letters, February 11).

The code says secret filming "is acceptable only when it is clear that the material so acquired is essential to establish the credibility and authority of a story, and where the story itself is equally clearly of important public interest".

The code also states that, as senior programme executive at Channel 4, all applications for such filming have to be submitted to me in writing before the filming is carried out (wherever practicable) and again before it is transmitted. These written requests are reviewed regularly by the ITC.

Channel 4 does not give permission lightly for secret filming, and we certainly do not sanction "fishing expeditions". But it is sometimes necessary to use secret filming in order to corroborate important stories of public interest, such as the Sotheby's scandal.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WILLIS,
Director of Programmes,
Channel Four Television,
124 Horseferry Road, SW1.
February 12.

'Gay genes' and selective abortion

From Mr Peter Tatchell

Sir, I am surprised that an esteemed scientist like Dr James Watson should give any credibility, however qualified, to the flawed theory which claims a genetic causation of homosexuality (report, February 17).

According to gay gene theory, genetic factors are responsible for sexual orientation, with our genetic inheritance programming us to desire one sex rather than the other.

If heterosexuality and homosexuality are, indeed, mutually exclusive, unchangeable and genetically determined as this theory suggests, how do we explain bisexuality or people who suddenly in midlife, switch from heterosexuality to homosexuality (or vice versa)? We can't.

It is, of course, possible that genetic factors might predispose individuals towards a particular sexuality. However, a predisposition is not the same as a causation. Most studies indicate that genetic influences are of secondary significance compared to social mores and expectations.

If homosexuality was primarily explainable in genetic terms, we would expect it to appear in the same proportions and forms in all cultures and all epochs.

As the anthropologists Clellan Ford and Frank Beach demonstrated in *Patterns of Sexual Behaviour* (1965), far from being cross-culturally stable, both the incidence and expressions of same-sex desire vary vastly between different societies.

Yours sincerely,
PETER TATCHELL,
45 Arrol House,
Rockingham Street, SE1.

From Mr Mark Mullen

Sir, Quentin Crisp seems to equate homosexuality with effeminacy and frivolity. Though he may have wished to be "a princess" and felt his "body was not what he wanted it to be", this surely is a reflection of his personality, rather than his sexuality.

Commentators persistently fail to recognise homosexuality for what it is, a small part of an individual's life. It does not colour everything one does, or account for the camp and ridiculous behaviour which has its roots in the insalubrious sub-culture developed before legalisation. Nor does it imply that a homosexual wishes to be anything other than male.

Any genetically based selective abortion programme would deprive the world of many hard-working, sober-minded individuals who are perfectly satisfied with their existence and their sexuality. Crisp should not tar us all with his own brush.

Yours faithfully,
MARK R. MULLEN,
Van Mildert College,
University of Durham.
February 17.

Teaching standards under review

From the Reverend Ian Paul

Sir, We read this morning of the latest development in the Government's education policy — yet another way to punish teachers (leading article and report, "Teachers face sack if their pupils fail").

It is commonly believed that the way you treat people shapes the way they behave. I wonder what effect it is having on children at school for their teachers to be living in an atmosphere of constant criticism from their political masters.

Is it not time that the Government led by example and started finding good to praise, rather than finding faults to criticise? We would expect no less from any teacher.

Yours faithfully,
IAN PAUL,
44 Kingston Road, Poole, Dorset.
February 12.

From Dr M. F. Hopkinson

Sir, Reading Viscount Caldecote's letter advocating a chartered professional teachers' institution (February 11) against a background of yet another initiative by Gillian Shephard to raise standards in education, caused me to reflect that all attempts to "charter" teachers so as to establish internally monitored professional standards have failed because of the reluctance of governments to allow professional autonomy.

As long as the State (through the Department for Education and Employment, the Teacher Training Agency or whatever body) controls and manipulates teacher-training numbers in line with political agendas there is little chance of a true, independent profession being allowed to develop in this country.

The level of knowledge required by the curriculum rises continually: my daughter studies for her geography GCSE work which only recently I was teaching to my undergraduate students and which I only learnt at postgraduate level. The ability of some, if not all, children to handle such a curriculum surely implies rising rather than falling standards of education.

Yours faithfully,
M. F. HOPKINSON,
204 Stockton Lane, York.
February 12.

From Mr Tim Wheatley

Sir, Viscount Caldecote called for "a focus for excellence both in maintaining high standards of training and of professional conduct in its widest sense". We agree with him that if initiatives to raise the standards of the teaching profession are to have any chance of success they must involve the profession itself.

As the current chartered body for the teaching profession, the College of Preceptors is actively seeking ways in which Viscount Caldecote's ideas can be put into practice. It also supports the very relevant proposals which have long been made from within education for a General Teaching Council for England and Wales, and endorses the current Private Member's Bill promoted by Sir Malcolm Thornton, MP, on the subject.

Yours sincerely,
TIM WHEATLEY
(Chief Executive Officer),
College of Preceptors,
Coppice Row,
Theydon Bois, Epping, Essex.
February 12.

From Dr Julia Matthews

Sir, Teaching success is hard to measure with pupils who have special educational needs or are taken on after suspension from other schools.

Will any school admit them, or are we heading for a population of pupil refuseniks?

Yours etc,
JULIA MATTHEWS
50 Sydney Road, Bexleyheath, Kent.
February 12.

Science and the arts

From Mr K. R. Williams

Sir, The chasm between public recognition given to artists and scientists aptly described by Melvyn Bragg (article, February 10; letters, February 15) has only developed during the 20th century. The Friday evening discourses at the Royal Institution of Great Britain at which eminent scientists describe their work to a general audience began early in the 19th century and rapidly became so popular that the traffic congestion outside in Albemarle Street was severe enough for the authorities to have to make it London's first one-way thoroughfare. By the turn of the century outstanding members of society including members of the government regularly attended on these occasions.

Sadly a well-rounded person with an understanding of both arts and science is no longer the norm. Surely some attempt to remedy this deficiency could be made by televising these discourses, which continue to this day?

Yours faithfully,
KEITH R. WILLIAMS,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Material Science
and Metallurgy,
Pembroke Street, Cambridge.
February 17.

Surname usage

From Major General J. P. Crowdy

Sir, Surname usage certainly changes (letters, February 8, 18), more so perhaps in the past 30 years than in the previous 60; Holmes and Watson would have been mortified to address each other as Sherlock and John. More recently — in the Thirties — I shared a study at school with a boy whose first name I never knew; but we were firm friends.

As little as 30 years ago the Army made but small concession to familiarity. An excellent handbook, *Service Writing*, told us how to write DO (demi-official) letters to fellow officers: "Dear Colonel Smith" for officers relatively unknown to the writer; "Dear Colonel" to those rather better known (or perhaps more senior) and finally "Dear Smith" for close acquaintance.

Yours faithfully,
JOE CROWDY,
Pepperdon Mine,
Lustleigh, Newton Abbot, Devon.
February 11.

From Mr R. W. Provan

Sir, The surname Blue, although not exactly common, is by no means unknown in this part of Scotland, there being 23 listed in the Clyde Coast telephone directory. There are, however, 248 Greens.

Considering the significance of these two colours in this part of the world, both on and off the football park, I will leave your readers to draw their own conclusions.

I was also surprised to find that, despite the Clyde's historic political reputation, there was not a single "Red".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT W. PROVAN,
37 Morrishill Drive,
Beith, North Ayrshire.
February 10.

Letters for publication should carry contact telephone numbers. We regret that we cannot accept letters by telephone but they may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5046.

Bishop's choice of the Koran for Lent

From the Reverend Dr Alan C. Clifford

Sir, The decision by the Right Reverend Alan Smithson, Bishop of Jarrow, to suspend his Lenten Bible reading in favour of the Koran (report, February 14) is outrageous. Would Muslims tolerate the reading of the Bible instead of the Koran during Ramadan?

While the study of other faiths is useful in discouraging prejudice and hatred, no amount of scholarship can place the Koran in the same category as the Christian scriptures. The Bible contains all that is necessary for Western civilisation to rediscover its soul.

A religion which is persecuting Christians in the Sudan and elsewhere, which demands tolerant treatment in the Western world while itself stipulating barbaric penalties for criminals, has little or nothing to teach those who value the Bible as the inspired Word of God.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN C. CLIFFORD
(Pastor, Norwich Reformed Church),
7 Woodside Park,
Attleborough, Norfolk.
February 14.

From Mr Karim Chowdhury

Sir, I congratulate the Bishop of Jarrow on taking up reading the Koran. I am sure he will find a better understanding of the teachings of Christ as the Koran relates many stories to the life of Jesus and his mother Mary (peace and blessing be upon them both).

He will also find that it provides a study of comparative religion: all aspects of religion, from polytheism to monotheism and the tenets of Judaism, Christianity and other faiths are discussed within the text.

However, I am surprised that he had never read the Koran before, given his position within the Church and the community, and given the influence and impact on the world from a faith that probably has the largest number of practising members.

I would strongly recommend the Church of England to take up study of the Koran and the teachings of Prophet Muhammed (peace and blessing be upon him), as they may learn something to reduce the growing tide of crime, teenage pregnancies and drug abuse within this country.

This might stop so many people leaving the Church of England.

Yours sincerely,
KARIM CHOWDHURY,
64 Warren Street, W1.
February 15.

From the Reverend Ian Russell

Sir, I am encouraged by the Bishop of Jarrow's open-mindedness in his search for great spiritual truths and insights. I believe that reading the Koran is likely to be a beautiful experience.

By contrast the Reverend George Curry's comment — "Unfortunately we are living in a generation in which church leaders are giving the impression that all religions lead to God" — saddens me. It makes me wonder where these religions lead if not to God. I dislike the assumption that Christianity (with its many branches and internal disagreements) is the sole custodian of the soul.

My ears respond to the music of Monteverdi; my eyes to the medium of watercolour and to the style of the Impressionists. But it does not make opera, oil on canvas or Cubism invalid. It is what makes my heart sing which is important for me; but what makes another's heart sing is also important to me — for their sake.

Yours sincerely,
IAN RUSSELL
(Pastor, New Jerusalem Church,
Manchester),
5 Quayside Close,
Worsley, Manchester.
February 14.

From Mr A. J. Bradley

Sir, "If the trumpet does not sound a clear call, who will get ready for battle?" (I Corinthians xiv, 8).

Is it any wonder that the Church of England is facing a membership crisis when one of its leaders takes the bizarre decision to substitute the Koran for the Bible during Lent? Such action is certainly not the trumpet giving the clear call that a confused world is looking for, and so it will look elsewhere.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. BRADLEY,
14 Greenhalgh Moss Lane,
Tottington,
Bury, Lancashire.
February 14.

Pain and passion

From Mr Claus von Bulow

Sir, Quentin Crewe (letter, February 15) wrote with customary scholarship about Mrs Beeton's passionate love for her husband Samuel, and his (Samuel's) contributions to the literature of discipline. Your caption to his letter was, understandably, "Beeton beaten".

One is reminded of the passion felt for the late Doris Castlerosse by that curious duo, Cecil Beaton and Sir Alfred Beit, the poor lady being "beaten by Beaton and bitten by Beit".

Yours sincerely,
CLAUS von BULOW,
109 Onslow Square, SW7.
February 19.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 19: Commander Robert Marsh was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Commander Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Department, Metropolitan Police, when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

His Excellency Professor Cyril Foray was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Commission as High Commissioner for the Republic of Sierra Leone in London.

Mrs Foray was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor, University of Edinburgh, this evening attended a Dinner at the Playfair Library Hall, Old College, Edinburgh.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 19: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of The Duke of York.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 19: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Butler Trust, this morning visited Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre, Bedfont Road, Feltham, Middlesex.

Her Royal Highness later opened the new therapy pool at Meadow Wood School, Coldharbour Lane, Bushey, and was received by Mr Michael Colne (Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire).

The Princess Royal, Patron, International Health Exchange, this afternoon attended the launch of the Code of Best Practice in the Management and Support of Aid Personnel at the Royal Society of Medicine, Wimpole Street, London W1.

Her Royal Highness, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, afterards visited Burro, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London WC2.

Later, at Buckingham Palace, The Princess Royal presented The Princess Royal Award for 1996 on behalf of the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, British Executive Service Overseas, this evening attended a Reception at Buckingham Palace.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 19: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this morning visited the Trust's Hackney Project, Gilpin Square, London E5, and met grant recipients and local residents.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, afterwards visited Shadwell Basin Project, Shadwell Pierhead, Glamis Road, London E1, and met young people on a variety of water-based programmes.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon visited Tower Hamlets College, Poplar High Street, London E1, met students and community leaders and attended a seminar on development programmes for young people.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 19: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel in Chief, the Royal Anglian Regiment, today received Brigadier Peregrine Rawlins as Deputy Colonel of the Regiment, also Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Porter on assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 19: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited Ridley Bagels Limited, Dunhams Lane, Letchworth, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire (Mr Simon Bowes Lyon).

His Royal Highness this afternoon opened a new Electrox factory, The Business Park, Letchworth, and later presented The Queen's Award for Export Achievement to Laminar Medica Limited, Tring Industrial Estate, Tring, Hertfordshire.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal will visit *HMS St Vincent*, Old Admiralty Building, Spring Garden, SW1, at 9.30.

Eton College

The following have won Music Awards in 1997:

Music Scholarships: Edward J. Bainton (Summer Fields), Kenan R. Burrows (The Pilgrims' School), Timothy J. Dickinson (Westminster Abbey Choir School), John A. Haworth (Beechwood Park), Edward G.A. Lock (St Paul's Cathedral Choir School), Nicholas J. Richardson (Westminster Abbey Choir School), Tristan F. Sherwood-Roberts (Scaitcliffe), Edward M. Warrick (King's College School), David B.H. Winpenny (Ripon Cathedral Choir School).

Music Exhibitions: David S.J. Ellis (Eton College), Henry Hardingham (Beaudesert Park), Andrew Grenfell (Caldicott), Bertrand A.T. Playle (Cumnor House), James P. Sherlock (Aldro & Chetham's School of Music).

Honorary Music Exhibitions: Rupert R.W. Syme (Sunningdale School), John G.P.G. Williams (St George's School, Windsor).

Buckingham Palace Luncheon

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday held a luncheon party at Buckingham Palace. The guests were:

Professor Susan Arrowsmith (Professor of Law, University of Wales), Mrs Linda Jones (Chief Probation Officer, Leicester Probation Service), Mr Edward Fox (actor), Mr Richard Fries (Chief Charity Commissioner), Sir Ernest Harrison (chairman, Racal Electronics), Sir Graham Hart (permanent secretary, Department of Health), Professor Brian Heap (Visiting Senior Fellow, School of Clinical Medicine, Cambridge University) and Mr Alan Robson (general secretary, Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions).

Earl Sondes

A Memorial Service for Earl Sondes will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 1997, at 3.30pm at St Michael's, Chester Square, London, SW1. Friends and those wishing to attend are welcome. Any enquiries to Strutt & Parker 01227 451123.

CHRIS HARRIS

The risk from electricity is one of the dangers dramatically demonstrated to children in Hazard Alley

For safety take a trip down Hazard Alley

By John Young

AN educational centre to promote safety awareness among children might not seem a compelling reason for visiting an industrial estate on a cold, foggy winter morning. But the Hazard Alley Safety Centre in Milton Keynes, the first of its kind in Britain, is positively fun even for adults.

Instead of being lectured in classrooms, visitors are taken on a tour of a sort of film studio in which the various pitfalls of day-to-day modern life are graphically presented using lifesize sets. It starts in the home where the dangers range from kitchen equipment and electrical supplies to fire and burglary.

From there it continues through the garden (300,000 injuries a year), past a building site and a stretch of railway line, across the road to a petrol station forecourt, through a farm and a playground, beside a pond and electricity substation, while traffic noises and the sudden roar of a train emerging from a tunnel provide a realistic background. There is even a dark, foul-smelling, litter-strewn alley of the kind to be decisively avoided when seeking a short cut.

The idea began with a police-led initiative in 1991 in the form of a summer "Junior Citizen" course intended to make young people more safety-conscious and environmentally responsible. Although held in a disused, dirty building on a shoestring budget with no visual aids, it proved gratifyingly popular with both children and their parents.

"We decided then that we needed a permanent display which could attract children from a much wider area," John Simmonite, the centre manager, said. Help was sought from the police and fire services, each of which agreed to second a member of staff to the project, and further support came from Milton Keynes council and the area health authority.

In June 1993 a large warehouse was leased on the Kiln Farm Estate and work began using volunteer labour and building materials donated free by local firms. But sponsors soon followed, including big names like Shell, Volkswagen, Marks & Spencer, Coca-Cola, Schweppes and Anglia Television.

The £500,000 centre was officially opened a year later by the Duchess of Gloucester, and it has now been entered for the 11th annual Community Enterprise Awards, part-sponsored by *The Times*. The annual running costs, including the salaries of five full-time employees are partly met by entrance fees and the rest by sponsorship.

Children usually visit the centre in school groups of up to 70 at a time, the £2.50 entrance fee being met either by the schools or by parents. The tour takes about two hours and last year drew some 10,500 children and 1,500 adults from as far afield as London, Birmingham and Manchester.

Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, has described Hazard Alley as a "superb example of an innovative approach to education".

THE TIMES/DELOITTE & TOUCHE • COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Interest in starting similar projects has come from all over Britain, from Scotland and Wales to Kent and Cornwall, and Mr Simmonite expects most regions to have their own centres within the next few years.

The 1996 Community Enterprise Awards are organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Deloitte Touche. The winners will be announced in late March.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Adam Black, publisher, Edinburgh, 1784; Dame Marie Rambert, founder of the dance company bearing her name, Warsaw, 1888.

DEATHS: Aurangzeb, Mogul emperor of India 1658-1707, Ahmednagar, 1707; Robert Peary, arctic explorer, Washington, 1920; Sir Hugh Allen, musician, Oxford, 1946; Sir Leonard Woolley, archaeologist, London, 1960; Percy Grainger, composer, White Plains, New York, 1961.

Defeat of the Dutch fleet under Admiral Van Tromp by Admiral Blake off Portsmouth, 1653.

Austria declared herself bankrupt, 1811.

The steeple of Chichester Cathedral was blown down, and the Crystal Palace was badly damaged during a great storm, 1861.

Lord Louis Mountbatten appointed last Viceroy of India, 1947.

John Glenn became the first American to orbit the earth three times in *Friendship 7*, 1962.

The Royal Horticultural Society

Sir Simon Hornby has been re-elected President of the Royal Horticultural Society and Mr Martin Slocock re-elected Treasurer. Dr Valerie Payne and Mr Robin Williams have been elected to the Council of the Society. Captain Peter Erskine and Lady Skelmersdale have been re-elected.

Birthdays today

Mr Robert Altman, film director, 72; Mr Roy Beggs, MP, 61; Miss Brenda Blethyn, actress, 51; Mr Gordon Brown, MP, 46; Mr John Browne, group chief executive, British Petroleum Company, 49; Professor A.C. Fabian, astronomer, 49; Miss Ruth Gipps, conductor and composer, 76; Mr Jimmy Greaves, broadcaster and footballer, 57.

Mr Eddie Hemmings, cricketer, 48; Commandant Dame Marion Kettlewell, former director, WRNS, 83; Mr Roger Knapman, MP, 53; Mr Mike Leigh, dramatist and director, 54; Professor Donald Longmore, cardiac surgeon, 69; Lord McNally, 54; Miss Ella Maillart, explorer, 94; Dame Mona Mitchell, Lady-in-Waiting to Princess Alexandra, 59; Mr Phil Neal, footballer, 46; Mr David O'Dowd, former Chief Constable, Northamptonshire, 55; Sir Frederick Page, FRS, former chairman, Aircraft Group, British Aerospace, 80.

Dr V. Payne, former Headmistress, Malvern Girls' College, 57; Mr Sidney Poitier, actor, 70; Vice-Admiral Sir Cameron Rusby, 71; Mr Bill Walker, MP, 68; Professor R.A. Weiss, former director, Insitute of Cancer Research, 57; Lady Wharton, 63; Mr Barry Wordsworth, conductor, 49.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.L. Leslie Melville and Miss E.J. Thorp
The engagement is announced between Jake, elder son of Mr Hamish and Lady Eliza Leslie Melville, of Lochluichart, Ross-shire, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Thorp, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr N.B. Cawley and Miss D.A. Stoker
The engagement is announced between Nicholas Blair, only son of Mr Colin Featherstone Cawley and the late Mrs Nanette Anne Cawley, of St Clements, Jersey, and Deborah Anne, younger daughter of the late Mr Eric William Stoker and of Mrs Patricia Rachel Stoker, of Trinity, Jersey.

Mr P.E.W. Harris and Miss O.L. Gorovaia
The engagement is announced between Paul, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Peter Harris, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Olga, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leonty Gorovoy, of Kiev, Ukraine.

Mr R.J. Pownall and Miss K.A. Pearson
The engagement is announced between Richard John, elder son of Brigadier and Mrs John Pownall, of Milland, West Sussex, and Karen Alyson, elder daughter of Mrs Ingrid Pearson, of Guiseley, Yorkshire, and the late Mr David Pearson.

Mr A.T. Sayers and Miss J.C. Aitkens
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Charles Sayers, of Chiswick, West London, and Joanna, daughter of Major and Mrs Peter Aitkens, of Esher, Surrey.

Mr C.R.W. Ruff and Miss M.J. Prentis
The engagement is announced between Cameron, elder son of Mr and Mrs Robert W. Ruff, of Calgary, Canada, and Miranda, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry B. Prentis, of Castle Hedingham, Essex.

Mr W.deL. Telfer-Smollett and Miss C.M. Butterfield
The engagement is announced between William, only son of Mr Michael Telfer-Smollett and the late Mrs Telfer-Smollett, of Earls Court, London, and Carrie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Butterfield, of Alton, Hampshire.

Mr M.J. Ware and Miss K.M. Nott-Bower
The engagement is announced between Maylin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Ware, of Brant Broughton, Lincoln, and Kate, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Timothy Nott-Bower, of Bedwyn Common, Wiltshire.

Mr O.J.J. Wynne and Miss K.E. Lewis
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr Willoughby Wynne, of Kensington, London, and Mrs Rosalind Wynne, of Knaresborough, Yorkshire, and Karen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Lewis, of The Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire.

Marriage

Dr C. Tadgell and Lady Juliet de Chair
The marriage took place on Thursday, February 13, at the Court House, Kealakekua, Hawaii, between Dr Christopher Tadgell and Lady Juliet de Chair.

Dinners

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a dinner given by Her Majesty's Government at 1 Carlton Gardens yesterday in honour of Mrs Madeleine Albright, American Secretary of State.

Lord Gregson
Lord Gregson was the host at the annual dinner of the Parliamentary Group for Engineering Development held last night at the House of Lords. Mr Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, was the guest of honour and speaker.

London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates
Canon Lord Pilkington of Oxenford was the guest speaker at the annual arts faculty dinner of the London Goodenough Trust for Overseas Graduates held last night at Mecklenburgh Square. Mr J.P.G. Wathen, governor, and Mr John McCready, deputy director, received the guests.

The Intellectual Property Lawyers' Organisation
The Intellectual Property Lawyers' Organisation held a dinner meeting at the Café Royal on Tuesday. Papers on 'Arbitration and Intellectual Property' were given by Mr Anthony Watson, QC, and Mr Clive Thorne of Denton Hall. Mr Francis Gurry of the World Intellectual Property Organisation was in the chair and welcomed by Lord Hoffmann.

Luncheons

Association of European Journalists
Mr Paddy Ashdown, MP, was the guest speaker at a luncheon of the British section of the Association of European Journalists held yesterday at the St Ermin's Hotel. Mr Paul Hodgson, chairman, presided.

Securities Institute
Sir Brian Pearse, Chairman of British Invisibles, was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Securities Institute held yesterday at Centurion House, Monument Street.

Mr Graham Ross Russell, chairman, presided. Mr Daniel Hodson, Mr Charles Irby, Mr Michael Marks and Mr David Quysner were among the guests.

Lecture

Company of World Traders
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, introduced the 10th annual Tacitus Lecture, sponsored by the London School of Foreign Trade, last night at Guildhall. The lecture was deliverd to the Company of World Traders by Dr Helmut Sohmen, Chairman of World-Wide Shipping Group, Hong Kong. Mr Jim G. Davis, Master of the Company of World Traders, Mr David Watt, Senior Warden, and Mr Peter Wildblood, Junior Warden, were among the guests.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

My strength, I look to you; for God is my strong tower. My God, in his unfailing love, will go before me. Psalm 59 : 9,10

BIRTHS

BARNES - On February 5th at the Bassetlaw General Hospital, Worksop, to Stephen and Stefanie, a daughter, Hannah Jayne, a sister for Ruth, Cathy and Rosemary.

EDGE - On February 14th, to Violet (née Vyner) and Richard, a son George Henry.

GREEN - On February 15th at The Portland Hospital Allison and Matthew are proud to announce the birth of Sarah Emily.

GYE - On 11th February, to Renny and David, a daughter, Charlotte Caroline, a sister for Hugo, Alice, Freya and Sally.

HOWCROFT - On February 18th, to Judith (née Brett) and Paul, a daughter, Elizabeth Alice, a sister for Jessica and John. Deo Gratias.

LIVINGSTONE - On February 14th 1997, to Gail and Peter, a son, Oliver Phillips, a brother for Samuel.

NEVILL - On February 13th, to Louisa (née Eastgate) and Richard, a son, Charles Jaxon.

O'CONNOR - On February 14th, to Sharon (née Kelly) and Miles, a beautiful daughter, Elizabeth Grace.

ORMEROD - On February 8th, to Teresa (née Nelson) and Giles, a son, Robin Paul Gervase.

PERRY - On February 15th 1997, to Rachel (née Downing) and Simon, a daughter, Juliette Mary.

POWELL - On February 11th, to Katherine (née Tidbury) and Dominic, a son, Myles Edward Severn.

ROTHSCHILD - On 17th February 1997 at University College Hospital, to Madeleine (née Ehram) and Simon, a son, Tristram Henry Matthew, a brother for Benedict.

SPRIGGS - On February 13th, to Katie (née Furlong) and Edmund, a daughter, Emma Alison.

VAN DER MEIJ - On February 13th at The Portland Hospital, to Ellen and Robert, a beautiful daughter, Sophie Tine Helena.

DEATHS

ALLCOCK - Reverend David, retired Chaplain of Shrewsbury School, died peacefully at his home in Betws-y-Coed on 16th February 1997. Funeral to be held at Shrewsbury School Chapel on Monday 24th February at 11.30 am. No flowers please. Donations if desired to The Stroke Association or British Heart Foundation.

BARING-GOULD - On February 14th in San Francisco, Sheena (née Collins), much loved mother of Lally and grandmother.

BAMFORD - Peter on February 16th 1997 peacefully at Eastbourne, aged 81. Beloved husband of Mary, father of Roger and James and grandfather of Charlotte, Andrew and Jonathan. Service at Guildford Crematorium on Thursday February 27th at 2pm. No flowers.

BEDWELL - (Roehampton, London) suddenly in hospital on February 15th aged 84 years. Edward Parker Brisbane (Tony). Son of the late Ruby and Captain Harold Bedwell R.N. and husband of the late Alice Marie Jeanne (née Diab). Funeral Service on Wednesday 26th February at Putney Vale Crematorium at 10 am. Friends please meet at the crematorium. Enquiries to E. Larner & Son, Funeral Directors, tel: (0181) 788-2942.

CONSTANTINIDES - On February 18th peacefully, Demetrios. Beloved husband of the late Maria, loving father, grandfather and friend. Funeral Service on Tuesday 25th February at 12.30 pm at St Sophia's Greek Cathedral, Moscow Road, W2, followed by burial at Putney Vale Cemetery at 2.15 pm. Flowers or donations for Cancer Research to J.H. Kenyon, 49 Marloes Road, London W8 6LA, tel: (0171) 937-0757.

DENT - Margaret Ruth (née Coad), widow of Charles Enrique Dent, died peacefully on 17th February surrounded by her loving family. Funeral Requiem will be held at Ealing Abbey, Marchwood Crescent, at 12 noon on Thursday February 27th followed by interment at North Acton Cemetery. Flowers may be sent to Christopher Wickenden, 71 Greenford Avenue, Hanwell, London W7 1LJ.

EDMEAD - Robert Edward. Died peacefully at home on February 9th, 1997, after a brave struggle, borne with great courage, humour and dignity aged 59 years. Dearly loved husband of Joan, kind father of Deborah and Paul, much-missed grandfather of Samuel and Arthur. The family would like to extend their thanks and good wishes to all who attended the service held in his memory at St Mary's Church on February 18th and those who sent the many beautiful flowers.

ELLIS - Hedley John of South Heath, Great Missenden, Bucks., peacefully on February 14th at the Florence Nightingale Hospice, Stoke Mandeville, aged 68 years, beloved husband of the late Audrey and much loved father of Tracey, Christine and Keith. Funeral Service at Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, Bucks., on Monday 24th February at 2.30 pm.

GARDNER - Gavin Andrew on 16th February 1997 at home in Sevenoaks, Kent, after a short illness aged 85 years. Loving husband of Kate, father of Ian, Alastair, Catherine and Nicola, grandfather of Nicholas, Jonathan and Oliver. Funeral Service at the Church of St Peter and St Paul, Seal on Tuesday 25th February at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research may be sent to Funeral Directors Welham Jones, 156 London Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1DJ, (01732) 742400.

GRAHAM - Martin Thomas. Suddenly on 14th February 1997, Martin aged 52 years. Funeral to take place on Tuesday 25th February 1997 at 3.30 pm at Slough Cemetery, Stoke Road followed by burial. Rest in Peace. All friends welcome. Flowers if desired to Cyril H Lovegrove (Funeral Director), D P House, The Ring, Bracknell, Berkshire. Telephone 01344 421949.

HAMBLYN - Eric Lionel, aged 66 of Rye, East Sussex, after a short illness on 18th February 1997. Donations to R.N.L.I.

HILL - Violet Mary Mervyn (née Voules), widow of Stephen Hill Esq, died suddenly on Sunday February 16th at her home in Colne Engaine in her 89th year. The funeral will be at St Andrew's Church, Colne Engaine, on Monday February 24th at 1.45 pm. Flowers may be sent to W.H. Shephard Funeral Directors, 93-94 High Street, Colchester, CO1 1TH or donations to the International League for the Protection of Horses, Anne Colvin House, Snetterton, Norfolk NR16 2LR.

KNIGHT - Mary, peacefully on February 17th 1997, thanks to all her friends at Torkington House. Dearly loved mother of Lionel, Bridget and Johnny. Funeral Service on February 27th at 2.15 pm at The West London Crematorium at Kensal Green, Harrow Road, W10; all welcome. Family flowers only please; donations to the WRVS, Torkington House, Creswick Road, London W3 9HF. We deeply mourn the passing of a great friend and mother; her ashes will rest with her beloved Wyndham, at Chawton.

LADE - Shelagh Beatrice Aimee. On February 16th, 1997. Beloved and loving wife of John, mother, grandmother, friend of all who came to Yaldham. Funeral private.

LAMB - Herbert John Barnard of Knaphill, Surrey, died peacefully at St Peter's Hospital on Sunday 16th February 1997. The funeral will take place on Monday 24th February 1997 at St John's Crematorium, Woking at 11.30 am. Flowers to Cyril H. Lovegrove, 9 Cresswell Corner, Anchor Hill, Knaphill, Surrey, tel: (01483) 799191 or donations if preferred to charity of own choice.

LEE - Nora (née Zimmern) passed away peacefully on Sunday 16th February in her 83rd year. Widow of Major Robert E. Lee (Robbie), much loved mother to Pamela, David, Colin and Angela and cherished matriarch. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium Tuesday 25th February at 3 pm.

LODGE - Sir Thomas Lodge FRCR, FRCP, FRCS, suddenly in London on 16th February 1997. Much loved father of Creenagh and Anton and husband of the late Aileen. Requiem Mass at Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington High Street on Monday 24th February 1997 at 12.30 pm and afterwards at The Belvedere, Holland Park. Interment will take place privately on Tuesday 25th February. Family flowers only to Chelsea Funeral Directors, 260B Fulham Road, London SW10 9EL, tel: (0171) 352-0008.

MacKICHAN - Isobel "Blossom" (née Flower), beloved wife of Brian for 57 years, after a long illness borne with great courage. Much loved aunt of Alaugh and Belinda. Funeral Service at St John the Baptist, Windlesham, Surrey, at 2.30pm on Wednesday 26th February. Flowers to Ford Mears & Partners, 26 Frimley High Street, Frimley, Surrey, tel: (01276) 25563.

MILLAR - on February 16th at Portsmouth Renal Unit, Bill, beloved husband of Margaret. Enquiries to A.H. Chester, Funeral Directors, Romsey, tel: 01794-513393.

MILNER - Capt. Trevor, R.D., R.N.R., much loved, respected and admired husband of Bernadette and father of Chris and Martin. Died suddenly on 17th February 1997. Funeral Service at St Andrew's Church, West Wratting on Wednesday 26th February at 1.30 pm to be followed by cremation. Flowers or if wished donations for St Andrew's Church, West Wratting may be sent to H.J. Paintin Ltd, 43 High Street, Linton, Cambridge CB1 6HS.

NEILAND - Bryan Arthur passed away unexpectedly on Sunday 16th February, 1997. Loving and well loved husband of Eve, and a very special dad to Adam and Laura. Sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at St James the Less Church, Pangbourne on Monday 24th February at 12.15 pm. Flowers, or if preferred donations for 'British Heart Foundation' may be sent to A.B. Walker and Son Limited, 36 Eldon Road, Reading RG1 4DL. Tel: 0118 9 573650.

ROSS - On February 16th peacefully at Cassington, Oxford, Joyce Margaret, wife of Ronald Gabriel and mother of Susan and Anna. Family funeral Friday, no flowers.

RUSSELL - John Edward. Theatre Producer, Stage Manager of many shows including The Crazy Gang, on 18th February after a long illness bravely borne. Funeral Barham Crematorium, Kent, 4.30 pm Monday 24th February. Funeral Director Chittendens, Folkestone, (01303) 851456.

SCOTT - Arthur Finley, died suddenly on February 16th in his 90th year. He was well respected as teacher, lecturer, author and Headmaster of Kettering Grammar School from 1943-51; Senior Lecturer in English at Borough Road College, Isleworth - now Brunel University until his retirement in 1973. His many books are widely known to students all over the world. He will be sadly missed by his daughters Jennifer and Christine, his grandchildren and close friends including his special carer Elaine. Private cremation at his own request. Cheque donations for The Arthur Scott Memorial Prize Fund can be made out to: Brunel University c/o Prof. E.H. Elliott, Brunel University, Osterley Campus, Borough Road, Isleworth TW7 5DU.

STEVENSON - On 16th February 1997 at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, Betty Stevenson, aged 83 years, until recently of Dunblane, dearly loved wife of the late Rev Dr Jack Stevenson, beloved mother of Michael, Bridget and Andrew, dear mother-in-law of Jean, Spencer and Anne and much loved grandma of Angus, Niall, Shona, Mhairi, Saskia, Finlay, Charles and Georgia. The funeral will be held at Dunblane Cathedral on Friday, 21st February, at 10.30 am followed by burial service at Culter Kirk, Biggar.

TAYLOR - Grace, for 58 years the dearly loved wife of Frank, recently of Kerves Lane, Horsham. Mother of Rosalind and Penelope, grandmother of Elizabeth, Robert, Sarah and Sophie and great-grandmother of Philip. Died on February 17th aged 85. If desired, donations in memory may be sent to The Cancer Research Campaign, c/o T.A. Ellement & Son Ltd., 21 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 3HR.

VAN HEE - David aged 47 died suddenly at his home on February 14th 1997. Will be greatly missed by his family and his friends and colleagues in the Temple. The funeral will take place at Canley Charter Chapel, Coventry, at 1 pm Tuesday February 25th. Flowers or donations if preferred (to Alzheimers Disease Society) c/o Co-operative Funeral Services, 11 Lower Holyhead Road, Coventry. Memorial Service will be held in the Temple Church on Wednesday March 5th 1997 at 5 pm. For further details of Memorial Service please contact John Hodgson Chambers, (0171-353 4854).

WHEATLEY - On February 17th 1997 suddenly, Walter "Bill", of Churt, Surrey. Husband of the late Margery, father of Colin, Jill, Peter, Susan, Timothy and Vanessa. Funeral Service at Guildford Crematorium on Wednesday March 5th at 12 noon. Flowers and enquiries, Thorne-Leggett, Funeral Directors, tel: (01420) 488896.

WHINNEY - Margot (née Morris) on 19th February 1997 aged 88. Much loved wife of the late Ernest and mother of Jack, Sally and Anthony, grandmother and great-grandmother. Service of Thanksgiving 2.45 pm on Thursday, 27th February at All Saints' Church, Spelsbury. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Spelsbury PCC, 2 Church Road, Spelsbury OX7 3JR.

WOODRUFF - Edna Irene (née Blackburn), widow of John Woodruff, died peacefully on February 18th 1997 aged 89 years, surrounded by her family. She was much loved by all her family and will be sadly missed.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FALK - A Memorial Service for Sir Roger Falk OBE will be held at St Bartholomew The Great, West Smithfield, London EC1 on Thursday, March 20th at 12 noon.

BIRTHDAYS

'13. Stock Nielsen' Ol, [illegible] Nielson, Alles Gute zum Geburtstag, 1 Floor Jakob.

EMMA HASLEHURST is 18 today. Congratulations & much love. Dad, Mum, Ashling and Rory.

MICHAEL [illegible] wishing you life long happiness on your first birthday love always G.G.

SERVICES

PLUMP PARTNERS National Dating Agency. If you are plump or prefer a plump partner ring 01352 715909.

WANTED

MINK COATS, fox coats purchased Best price paid. All inquiries/details Box No 1734

PRE 1940's clothes, linen, lace, fans, patchwork quilts, embroideries, samplers, oriental articles, shawls, textiles, costume jewellery etc 0171 229 9618

ROLEX & CARTIER wanted. High cash prices paid. 0171 495 8992 or visit 31 Park Lane W1.

TICKETS FOR SALE

ABSOLUTELY ALL: 6 Nations, Wimbledon '97, all major shows & sporting events. Bought & Sold. 0171 394 8283

ALL AVAIL: Phantom, all theatre, B.Adams, P.Collins, C. Dion, Rugby all sport 0171 480 4183

ALL SHOWS pop & sport cheapest in London. Also Heathcliffe. All tickets £20 0171 240 3990

TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL TICKETS 5 Nations, Prince Naseem, Phil Collins, C. Dione, all major pop, sport & theatre Tel 0171 925 0085

ANY TICKET obtained. Theatre, Concerts & any sporting events. 0171 488 4414 (City).

FIVE NATIONS RUGBY '97 Tickets wanted for all Matches. Tel 0171 378 9090

TICKETS WANTED For England v France 1st March. best prices paid. We pay cash and collect. Tel 0171 247 4123

FOR SALE

A BIRTHDATE Newspaper. Original. Superbly presented. Freephone 0800 906609

A NEWSPAPER dated very day they were born £18+p&p. Same day despatch. 0171 726 2626.

THE TIMES - 1791-1996 other titles available. Ready for presentation - also "Sundays". Remember When. 0181-688 6323 or Call Free 0500 520000

YORK, PENNANT, slate, limestone & terracotta flagstones & floor tiles. Cobble setts, stone troughs, masonry service. Nat & Internat del. Holley Hexall 01380 850039 (Wilts)

All Sport Tickets
TICKET ONLY / HOSPITALITY
Five Nations Rugby
Wimbledon Tennis
Grand Prix, Ascot
Theatre & Concerts
Call for FREE Sports Diary
Information & Bookings
0171 247 4123

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

PORTUGAL & Canaries. All areas. Villas/apts., hotels, pousadas, golf hols, flights. Longmere Int'l. 0181 654 2424. Retail agents. ABTA E143X

WINTER SPORTS

ANY day for any number of days the best choice for Ski Weekends & Tailor-made holidays. White Roc Ski 0171 792 1188.

LATE OFFERS. Catd chalets in France, Austria, Switz & Canada Ski Total 0181 948 6922 Abta

WEEKEND & Tailor-made skiing. Depart any day. White Roc 0171 792 1188 ATOL 3582.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

NEW Steinway Grand Piano 5ft 6", black satin finish. Half price. 0468 391237.

PIANOS for sale?? Advertise in the musical instruments classification for 3 days and get a further 3 days free. Call 0171 680 6877 now

FLATSHARE

BATTERSEA 5 min Clpm Junc, dbl rm in lovely flat with roof garden for prof m/s fml. £360pcm. Dep/refs reqd 01993 868157.

CHISWICK Mon-Fri, own room & b'room, TV/Tel, in owner Occ. lovely maisonette. Use of Kit, roof terr. N/S. Proff F. Tube/Shops/M4 5 min. £325 inc pcm + dep/refs. 0181 9951561.

FLATMATES London's foremost (Est 1970) Professional flat share service. 0171-589 5491

FLATSHARE

FULHAM Pleasant Professional to share lux house nr tube. Double bedroom, own bathroom + TV. £500pcm excl + dep. Tel: 0171 381 3488

SE16 - DOCKLANDS. Prof M/F to share lge house, Smoker or N/S, large dble rm, 10 mins City / shopping centre, refs/deposit reqd. £260pcm excl. Tel: 0171 2370993 / 0973 164566

WANDSWORTH COMMON Pleasant room in family hse offered to prof man, close Clapham Junction & Wandsworth Town. £75 pw inc. 0181 874 5847.

W14 M/F, 30+, n/s for room in house/garden. £85pw incl. Tel 0171 603 5015 (eves)

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

AFRICA Specials. Lagos fr £329 Please call Citybond Travel on 0171 408 1535. ATOL IATA.

COSTCUTTERS on flights & hols to Europe, USA & most destinations. Diplomat Travel Services Ltd: 0171-730 2201. ABTA 25703 IATA/ATOL 1355.

GERMANY Daily low cost flights and hotel accommodation. All major cc. German Travel Centre 0181 429 2900. ABTA 90686 ATOL 2977 IATA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COURT & SOCIAL
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

Please send Court Page announcements by post/fax to:
Mrs J. Neenan, Court & Social Advertising, The Times,
PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XS.
Tel: 0171 782 7347, Fax 0171 782 7725

Please include in all correspondence:
a signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent,
a daytime and home telephone number and address.

Advertisements for the Court Page must be received two working days prior to publication and are accepted subject to confirmation.

Advertising Rate is £15.28 per line inc VAT.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

FOR SALE

ACORN MEANS
FREEDOM

Let Acorn give you back the freedom you once enjoyed. Our safe, reliable stairlifts can transform your life. And they're a lot more affordable than you might think.

For your free video guide to choosing a stairlift, or more information, call freefone
0800 19 19 19

ACORN STAIRLIFTS

GIVE YOUR LIFE A LIFT

THE TIMES
Looking to sell your antiques, bric-a-brac, furniture or any memorabilia? Look no further.

Advertise four lines (28 characters per line) for 2 consecutive days in the personal column of *The Times* for only £20 including VAT (normal price £32.90 including VAT).
You will be reaching *2,165,000 readers.

This offer applies to private advertisers only.

To place your advertisement simply
TELEPHONE ON: 0171 481 1982
OR FAX: 0171 481 9313
e-mail pat.ratcliffe@newsint.co.uk.

*Source: NRS June - November 1996

DENG XIAOPING

Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, died yesterday aged 92. He was born in Sichuan province on August 22, 1904.

He was less than five feet tall, shorter than Napoleon and not in the heroic cast of Mao Xedong. Yet Deng Xiaoping's unchallenged leadership of China after 1978 may leave a deeper mark than Mao's on a population representing a fifth of mankind. Deng was 74 before his chance came to propel China in a new and more promising direction. Yet he presided over the most ambitious and successful market and free enterprise reforms ever undertaken in a socialist country. He effectively saved the Chinese Communist Party from disintegration in the late 1970s when it faced a crisis of legitimacy in the wake of Mao's disastrous Cultural Revolution. And his reforms later proved robust enough to survive the collapse of Communism in the Soviet Union.

The turnaround was a spectacular political seachange from China's radical and isolationist stance during the time of Mao. Deng opened the door to Western visitors, technology and investment and promoted a mixed economy with considerable scope for market forces to develop. He attempted to heal and stabilise China, with the aim of putting it back on the course of economic progress from which it had been derailed by Mao's "Great Leap Forward" experiment of 1958 and the Cultural Revolution that began in 1966.

But Deng's name is also stained with the blood shed at Tiananmen Square in June 1989, when he was seen as responsible for unleashing soldiers on unarmed students demonstrating for democracy — at a cost perhaps of up to a thousand civilian lives. Traumatised by his own experiences during the Cultural Revoltion, what he feared above all else was chaos.

The students at Tiananmen may have brought back memories of those terrible years, but history will judge him harshly for allowing such a clumsy and brutal response to peaceful demonstrators. The leadership was in some confusion at that time, but in a recently-published collection of his speeches Deng discussed the military assault on Tiananmen saying, "fortunately I was around to deal with the situation."

Deng was born Deng Ziansheng (he adopted the name Xiaoping on joining the revolutionary movement) in 1904 in Paifang in the traditionally rebellious province of Sichuan. He was the eldest son of a smallholding landowner. Leaving home at 16, he never returned, going to France as a worker-student in 1920 and joining in 1924 the European branch of the Chinese Communist Party.

In 1926, after some months in Moscow, Deng returned to China eventually joining a guerrilla group in Guangxi province. This merged with the larger force associated with Mao. Deng built up extensive contacts as a political commissar during the Long March of 1934-36.

He was promoted to the party central committee at the seventh congress in 1945, and then fought in the civil war as political commissar in what became the Second Field Army. He played a leading role in the crucial battle of Huai-Hai before going on to lead armies against the Nationalists' last strongholds in the Southwest. Early in Mao's new People's Republic, Deng became a vice-premier and finance minister in Zhou Enlai's cabinet, and in 1955 he was made party secretary general. The eighth party congress of 1956 saw him elevated to the Politburo standing committee.

Deng gained a reputation for toughness while carrying out the land reform programme in the 1950s, egging on peasants into killing landlords. But it was in Sino-Soviet affairs that he first became widely known abroad. He assisted Zhou's negotiations with Khrushchev in 1954 and visited Moscow in 1956. Mao later chose Deng to attend the fateful 20th Soviet Congress in Moscow in 1956 where Stalin was denounced. In 1957 he accompanied Mao to Moscow to argue with the Russians. Finally, in 1962 Deng led the last Chinese delegation to Moscow to see the dispute escalate into a complete break. Th Russians found him a tough, unyielding opponent.

By 1956 Deng had become exasperated by Mao's wayward economic policies. In the rivalry that developed between Liu and Mao, Deng's sympathies were with Liu. This was remembered ten years later when Deng and Liu were expelled from office in the Cultural Revolution. Mao forced Deng in the late 1960s to work as a fitter in a tractor factry in Jiangxi province. Deng turned off his hearing aid during one meeting in which he was being criticised.

Not until April 1973 did he reappear in public life, at the urging of Zhou Enlai. Zhou needed Deng's drive to restore an economy badly damaged and a society utterly dispirited. Mao needed Deng's contacts in army circles to restore party authority over powerful regional commanders.

Gradually Deng climbed back to office as vice-premier and member of the central committee. But by 1974 the battle between the antagonists of the Cultural Revolution became an acute struggle for power. In 1975 fate once again brought him down. In September Premier Zhou's cancer worsened and he could no longer effectvely defend Deng. After Zhou's death Mao named the little known Hua Guofeng to succeed him. When a demonstration in Beijing in April 1976, ostensibly in Zhou's memory, turned into a massive spontaneous show of disapproval for the Cultural Revolution and its aftermath, Deng was accused of being behind it. On Mao's authority he was stripped of all his posts.

Deng had to wait for almost a year after Mao's death before being readmitted for the second time to the central committee and made a vice-premier. His path was made easier when Hua Guofeng's grandiose but unrealistic economic plans led in 1978 to unusable imports, excessive costs and hopeless waste. By December 1978 Deng was able to win a majority on the Politburo and from then on appeared as the maker of China's policy. But opposition to Deng was still considerable. It derived from the many millions of cadres all over the country promoted during the Cultural Revolution.

In addition to more effective economic modernisation, a return to constitutional propriety and party discipline was high on Deng's agenda. Although he permitted the family members of senior colleagues to make corrupt fortunes, he gained respect by allowing action to be taken against his own son for alleged corruption. He also cut back the army's numbers sharply, modernising it and trying to make it more professional.

The economic reforms, first introduced in the countryside and leading to the effective abolition of Mao's people's communes, brought early results in terms of bigger harvests. The mood at the 12th party congress in 1982 was more confident, and Deng was able to put reformists into more critical posts. But he could not persuade a small number of the old guard, especially the 85-year-old Ye Jianying, who had strong backing within the army, and who had misgivings about Deng's economic reforms as well as his personality, to retire.

Doubts about the reforms came to a head in 1988, when the spectre of inflation once more loomed over China. Deng was not able to knock heads together in the leadership to achieve a genuine consensus, and so the party high command was left divided. When the choice had to be made whether to further the reforms or to go slow and safeguard party unity, Deng chose what at the time must have seemed the easier road, aligning himself with his blinkered fellow-octogenarians. As he tried to withdraw from public life in the late 1980s his balancing act became increasingly difficult. He achieved his summit with Mikhail Gorbachev in 1989, only to have it hijacked, in publicity terms, by students calling for the *glasnost* he had consistently refused to permit.

One of Deng's dearest ambitions was to recover China's "lost" territories. But the apparent liberalism of Presidents Nixon and Carter in recognising China was followed by President Reagan's attachment to Taiwan. Deng nevertheless rejoiced in winning from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in 1984 an agreement for the return of sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997.

Deng introduced the phrase "One Country, Two Systems" to depict both Hong Kong's envisaged role in China after 1997 and a more tolerant attitude towards Taiwan. He described the Basic Law for Hong Kong as an "historic event, not just for the present and for China but for all mankind." But he did not live to fulfil his dream of visiting Hong Kong after the 1997 retrocession, and saw China involved in bitter arguments with Britain over Governor Chris Patten's proposals for democratic reforms, which Deng steadfastly opposed.

He gave up his last formal post as chairman of the state Central Military Commission in late 1989, after which he appeared less and less in public. He continued, however, to exert influence. In January 1991 he sent a message to the party plenum urging the central committee to stop arguing about whether reforms were socialist or capitalist and to get on with improving the economy. In January 1992, scotching any suspicion that his influence was waning, he inspected Shenzhen, the showpiece zone of capitalist-style reforms bordering Hong Kong, and used the occasion to re-affirm China's promise to maintain Hong Kong's capitalist system for a hundred years. Meanwhile the Chinese economy entered another period of boom with double digit growth recorded for both 1992 and 1993.

In October 1992 Deng made a 20-minute appearance after the end of the 14th party congress which endorsed his policies of economic pragmatism by labelling them, in a phrase he was credited with coining (to avoid conflict with socialist orthodoxy), "socialism with Chinese characteristics". But his hopes of leaving behind him a united group of rational and vigorous leaders, able to pursue the various reforms he had initiated, were not convincingly realised.

His first choice as secretary general, Hu Yaobang, had been prised out of his position because of widespread doubts about his impetuousness and immaturity and because he was blamed for excessive tolerance of student demonstrations.

Zhao Ziyang, who was then promoted in his place, was temperamentally more fitted to the prime minister's post. But his support for fast-track economic reform (as an alternative to bureaucratic fiscal retrenchment) brought him into conflict with the more conservative prime minister Li Peng. Deng held back from breaking the political stalemate until Tiananmen brought matters to a head. In June 1989 Deng selected the middle-of-the-roader Jiang Zemin to succeed the disgraced Zhao Ziyang, but Jiang's position remained insecure.

Deng's reforms marked a new stage in China's painful struggle to adapt itself to international Western-led modernity. For two hundred years there have been cycles of Westernisation and isolationist reaction in China. What made Deng's rule a watershed in Chinese history was his persistence in continuing China's opening to the outside world even under domestic criticism. His leadership achieved a decisive break with the arbitrary political terror and extremism of Mao, though marred by much-publicised violations of the human rights of political dissidents. Deng was never a liberal.

Although he promoted lieutenants more liberal than himself to high posts, he himself stoutly defended the Communist Party's monopoly of power. His death brings to the surface deep uncertainties about China's political future and how the army, party and the new class of entrepreneurs will now share power.

Some hoped that his economic reforms would be accompanied by political freedoms. But Deng was opposed to importing Western political culture. He presided over periodic campaigns against spiritual pollution and bourgeois liberalisation. These often coincided with periods of economic retrenchment when inflation threatened the Chinese economy.

Deng was certainly not a liberal when Mao put him in charge of the Communists' first major crackdown on intellectuals during the Anti-Rightist Campaign in 1957. This purge followed the Hundred Flowers campaign when the party had encouraged the people to make open criticisms. The report Deng made to the Central Committee on the success of that Anti-Rightist campaign was never included in his published collected speeches.

Even a convinced liberal would have found it difficult to shift China quickly from the totalitarian habits of more than a millenium. Deng himself remained a practitioner of political authoritarianism and showed his true colours early in his "reign" when he suppressed the Democracy Wall movement in 1978 and imprisoned its leaders.

But then Deng was the manager of political forces which increasingly seemed to pull in opposite directions. He was unwilling to back his reformist protégés at crucial moments when the party elders banded together to put the brakes on reform. The frustration felt by younger reformers burst out into the open at the time of Tiananmen when a frustrated Secretary-General Zhao Ziyang confirmed to Gorbachev the open secret that all important decisions were still being referred to Deng. Deng's fury at this breach of party discipline showed that Zhao had hit a raw nerve.

There was also the vexed question of the intellectuals who for centuries formed China's ruling Mandarin class and are now needed more than ever for the modernization of the country. Since 1949 many of them have been in conflict with the Communist Party over the issue of how much criticism should be allowed and how far China should open itself to the Western world. After taking a battering under Mao, they were given a freer hand under Deng.

When Mao in his last years asked Deng what he thought would happen after his death, Deng replied that "all hell will break loose", meaning anarchy and a return to warlordism. When Mao died in 1976, Deng was almost the only surviving leader capable of curing China's malaise.

He had the political skills, backed by unrivalled civilian and military contacts and experience. Twice thrown out by Mao, he had twice recovered. And in Deng's final years some of the same fears of disorder, of provincial "economic warlords" increasingly defying a weakened centre, were being expressed.

The Chinese Communist Party had Mao to thank for the power it won in 1949 after 20 years of desperate struggle, and Mao's niche in national lore remains secure. But there is no question that millions of Chinese reaped tangible benefits from Deng's agricultural and industrial reforms in the 1980s and 1990s.

Deng's pragmatism was summed up in his famous observation: "What does it matter whether the cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice?" Mao is supposed to have charged once that, "Deng has never been a Marxist." No ideologue, he was a man who wanted to get things done, and was impatient of the inconclusive political campaigns and empty affirmations of Maoism that had done so much to hold China back.

To the outside world, Deng, building on his pioneering appearance at the United Nations in New York in 1974, brought China back into the routine intercourse of international affairs, opening the country to visits by thousands of foreign tourists, scholars, journalists and technicians who had been shut out before.

Time Magazine twice named him Man of the Year. Despite his peasant habit of spitting loudly into a spittoon, and his frequent abrasiveness, Western visitors liked his down-to-earth frankness and sense of fun. Kissinger however called him a "nasty little man".

China had long been aware of the importance of the Western world in the distance, but by 1978 it faced a much nearer group of advanced neighbouring "Confucian" economies (Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong) all of which had leapt to success while the "new" China stumbled over political boulders.

When he visited a Nissan factory in Japan in 1978 Deng said: "Today I have learnt what modernisation is like," and he later urged his compatriots to "learn from the great, diligent, valiant and intelligent Japanese people."

Deng was also struck by the economic achievements of the overseas Chinese. To Mao the overseas Chinese had been a political tool to spread Chinese-style revolution throughout East and Southeast Asia. Deng saw the damage that this had done to China's image and interests abroad, and focussed instead on the overseas Chinese as a source of inspiration for economic reform and as a vast pool of potential investment in China. Realistic scrutiny of these success stories in Asia led Deng to conclude that China's opening to the outside world must be whole-hearted. China had to move towards a market economy.

In the end Deng went down as a man of remarkable flexibility who nevertheless lacked the vision or imagination to follow his policies through, with the sombre consequences that were seen in Tiananmen Square.

There is a whole generation in China which will remember him as an architect of economic progress but also as a man responsible for much political illiberalism — authoritarian to the end.

His first wife died; his second deserted him in 1933. Deng is survived by his third wife, Zhuo Lin, and five children. One son, Deng Zifang, is an American-trained physicist with the China International Trade and Investment Company in Hong Kong, while the other, Deng Pufang, was crippled in the Cultural Revolution and became a spokesman for charities and the disabled. There are three daughters, Deng Lin (an artist), Deng nan (a Vice-Minister and Party Central Committee member) and Deng Rong, his secretary and biographer.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during and since the last war; and today, wherever conflict arises.
Every year approximately £10 million is spent in assisting some 20,000 cases. Please help with a donation or remember us in your Will.

Will you rise to the challenge, too?

THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND
DEPT.TT. 67 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 4AR.

INTERNATIONAL PHONE CALLS

Per minute
Fully inclusive

Japan	28p
Hong Kong	39p
Nigeria	67p
Ghana	67p
India	60p
Malaysia	56p
USA	11p
Pakistan	81p
Morocco	57p
Lebanon	95p
Iran	92p
Austria	28p
Philippines	71p
Finland	28p
Sri Lanka	88p
Mauritius	88p
Zambia	85p
Turkey	53p
Cuba	71p

and many many more low low rates...

High Quality Low cost calls

It's simple... We buy millions of international call time every year so we can pass on huge savings to our customers.
No extra charges
Any phone
No installation
No commitment
High quality lines and service
Per second charging
Free itemised statements
Constant low rates
All day, every day
to over 240 countries.

New Customers £150 towards British Airways holidays

Call Freephone
0800 0747 000
and see how much you can save

Worldcall

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

SEAT SALE Nairobi fr £320 rtn also Harare, Joburg, Lagos and more. Call Cruxton Travel 0171 306 3122 ATOL 3348 e mail sales@cruxton.demon.co.uk.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SMILEY Man. Enough! Lunch OK. A.T.

TREASURE YOUR MEMORIES keep them precious with a loving "Birthday Memories" notice in the Times! call 0171 680 6883

ANIMALS IN NEED

[illegible]

A LEGACY MEANS A LOT TO THE LIMBLESS

Help us help the limbless. Please make a donation now and a legacy later to ensure we can continue our vital work. We promise not a penny will be wasted.
Enquiries to: DPT TTC British Limbless Ex-Servicemen's Association, 185 High Road, Chadwell Heath, Essex RM6 6NA.
Charity Reg No. 207821

Help for those who would never ask

They see themselves as givers, not receivers. Now, suddenly faced with financial hardship, they are too proud to seek help.
If you know someone who needs help in their own home, or care in one of our 12 residential and nursing homes, call FREEPHONE 0800 415 330.

DGAA HOMELIFE
Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid Association Registered Charity No 207812

LEGAL NOTICES

STONEBADDEN PROPERTIES LTD (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

A meeting of the creditors of Stonebadden Properties Ltd is to be held at No 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9QL on 26 February at 11am under the provisions of Section 48 of the Insolvency Act 1986. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report of the receivers and if the creditors wish to do so, to appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors who have not received notice of the meeting and wish to attend should contact the receivers' office (telephone number 0171 939 3000) and ask for Barbara Long.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
KJ Ellis
Administrative Receiver
12 February 1997

NOTICE TO THE CREDITORS OF DELLFIELD DIGITAL LIMITED - IN LIQUIDATION

The Liquidator of Dellfield Digital Limited gives notice that he intends to make a dividend to the non preferential unsecured creditors of the company on or after 24 March 1997.
Creditors who have not already done so, must send details in writing of any claim against the company to the Liquidator, P R C Denaham of Price Waterhouse at 31 Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5QD by 21 March 1997 which is the last day for submitting claims. A creditor who does not make a claim by that date will not be included in the proposed distribution.
Any creditor who has not received a formal acknowledgement of any claim submitted and/or an earlier dividend payment should contact the Liquidator at the above address to confirm that they are included within those creditors entitled to a distribution.

NOTICE OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER
Name of Company Marlyn Holdings Limited
Number of Company 3089397
Former name of Company registered in last 12 months
Trading name of Company in last 12 months
Full name(s) of administrative receiver(s) PETER NORMAN SPRATT & IAN CLIFFORD POWELL
Address: PRICE WATERHOUSE Thames Court 1 Victoria Street Windsor Berkshire SL4 1HB
Date of Appointment 7 February 1997
Appointor Bank of Scotland
Nature and date of Instrument conferring power to appoint Debenture dated 29 November 1995
Short description of assets of the company (if any) to which appointment does not apply
Signed this 12 February 1997
P N Spratt, Joint Administrative Receiver
PNS/MM/RS/MAR/101

No. 00630 of 1997
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT
IN THE MATTER OF BRITISH THORNTON HOLDINGS PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 3 February 1997 presented to her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of a reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £10,500,000 to £4,832,396.23.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 5th day of March 1997.
Any creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED this 18TH day of February 1997
Travers Smith Braithwaite
10 Snow Hill
London
EC1A 2AL
tel: 0171 248 9133
fax: 0171 236 3728
dx: 79 London
ref: AMS

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO THE (1) THE COWDRAY FAMILY TRUST, (2) THE DICKINSON TRUST, AND (3) THE DUNNOTTAR TRUST
Court Ref. No. A279/97

An action has been raised in Aberdeen Sheriff Court by Nicholas Rose, Pursuer, calling as the Third, Fourth and Fifth Defenders respectively, the Cowdray Family Trust, the Dickinson Trust, and the Dunnottar Trust, whose last known addresses were in London. If the Cowdray Family Trust or the Dickinson Trust or the Dunnottar Trust wish to defend the action, the Trust or Trusts should immediately contact the Sheriff Clerk at The Sheriff Court House, Castle Street, Aberdeen from whom the service copy Initial Writ may be obtained. If the Trusts or any of the said Trusts fail to do so Decree may be granted against the said Trusts or any of the said Trusts
Signed
Peter L Chalmers, Solicitor
Peterkins, 100 Union Street
Aberdeen, AB10 1QR
Solicitor for Pursuer

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-680 6878
OR
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

ON THIS DAY

February 20, 1911

W. L. Murdoch, who was described as the "first great Colonial batsman", not only captained Australia but also played many fine innings for Sussex.

Mr. W. L. MURDOCH.

A Reuter telegram from Melbourne states that Mr. W. L. Murdoch, the famous Australian cricketer, had an apoplectic seizure during the luncheon interval in the Test Match there on Saturday, and died during the afternoon.

Mr. William Lloyd Murdoch was born at Sandhurst, Australia, on October 15, 1855. When but 23 years old he became known to the English cricket-loving public as a member of the first Australian Eleven that visited this country, in 1878. The last really first-class match in which he played was in 1899, but his appearances were intermittent, for after 1884 he dropped out of first-class cricket until 1890, when he again took command of the Australians in England. In 1893 he had qualified for Sussex, and played for that county until 1899. At various times in the 90s he also played for that most miscellaneous of all sides, London County.

If Charles Bannerman was the first Australian batsman who had in him absolutely first-class capacity, his career was too short to qualify him to be put on the same pedestal as Murdoch, whose grand batting fairly earned the place that can never be taken from him, that of the first great Colonial batsman. The Australian Eleven of 1878 was good entirely by its bowling. The batting, as might be expected, was rough and uncouth, but good judges of the game at once saw that in Murdoch's batting there was style. He scored largely against Lord Harris's Eleven in Australia, and in 1880 was made captain of the second Australian side that visited this country, as he was of the third and fourth in 1882 and 1884.

His first innings that made history was played at Kennington Oval in 1880, in the only Test Match of that year. The Australians covered themselves with glory by a magnificent uphill fight, and, although they were without their great bowler, Spofforth, were defeated only by five wickets. When Murdoch went in in the second innings Australia appeared to be in an absolutely hopeless position, but, helped by the two last men, Murdoch played an absolutely faultless innings of 153 not out — an innings which, considering the circumstances, has never been surpassed. In 1882 and 1884 he was captain of the two finest elevens ever sent to this country by Australia, and was the best batsman in both; in fact, during this period Murdoch as a batsman was only a little less great than W. G. Grace. In 1884 he made 211 in a match of huge scores at the Oval in the third Test Match. This was also a splendid innings, but not so good as his 153 in 1880 . . .

Murdoch came over a fifth time in 1890, when he led a weak Australian team. Turner and Ferris were the only bowlers they had, and they were lucky in finding a lean cricket year in England. Moreover, Murdoch could not be expected to show his old form after six years' absence from the game, and in addition he had put on weight very fast. Although between the years 1893 and 1900 he played many fine innings for Sussex, he was by no means the same batsman as formerly.

Mr. Murdoch was a batsman of the strictly orthodox kind, for he did not habitually move in front of his wicket, neither did he pull. He was quite perfect on the off side both in the drive and cut, and he was also quick to jump out to slow bowling, which in these days is a lost art. He played with a perfectly straight bat, and he had fine nerve. He came over originally as a reserve wicket-keeper, and was first rate in this also; but with Blackham in the various teams he was not wanted, and he gave it up entirely. As a captain he was good; but it is easy to manage great sides such as the Australian sides of 1882 and 1884, and he was not so pre-eminent in this as in batting. His exact place in the list of batting heroes is not easy to define. On hard, true wickets in his prime he had no superior except Dr. W. G. Grace.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 1997

NEWS

China instability fears as Deng dies

■ Deng Xiaoping, whose two decades as paramount leader of China brought the country great economic reforms but also the horror of Tiananmen Square, has died at the age of 92.

A new leadership is already in place, headed by Deng's chosen successor Jiang Zemin, but transition in China is always fraught with potential danger. A hundred million peasants are on the move looking for work in cities, and there has been ethnic unrest in Zinjiang and Tibet **Pages 1, 15, 19, 23,**

Cloud over Hong Kong's future

■ Chairman Mao famously asked: "Who are our enemies and who are our friends?" That is the question now in Hong Kong. Short, medium, and long-term, Deng Xiaoping's death will rock Hong Kong to its core. The city's future suddenly clouds.......**Page 1**

Clarke isolated

Kenneth Clarke was left isolated after Malcolm Rifkind broke the Cabinet truce on Europe and declared that the Government was hostile to a European single currency ....**Page 1**

Churchill's £6 million

Winston Churchill, MP, who spent most of his life living in the shadow of his glamorous mother Pamela Harriman, was left £6.2 million in her will. He must share the estate with Minnie, his estranged wife ....**Page 1**

Jopling hurt

Michael Jopling, the former Agriculture Minister, was being treated for suspected back injuries after an accident at a Lords-Commons go-karting event in Fulham, London.......**Page 1**

Paedophile ruling

A council won the right to refuse to re-house a convicted paedophile with a long history of assaults on children.......**Page 5**

Lottery outrage

Plans to allow the National Lottery jackpot to be won by overseas players and to enable people to play the game on their televisions provoked outrage.......**Page 7**

Time for books

Libraries should open during the evening and Sundays, according to the first government report on the service for more than 30 years ....**Page 8**

Inconvenience food

London Zoo keepers have started hiding the food of a Sumatran tiger and his mate to redevelop their predatory skills ....**Page 11**

Damages curbed

Juries are to be limited to £50,000 when awarding exemplary damages to victims of unlawful arrest and police assault under new guidelines issued by the Appeal Court.......**Page 12**

Senna warning

Benetton and other leading Formula One teams will refuse to race in Italy if Frank Williams is convicted of the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna, an Italian motor racing manager said .... **Page 14**

EU ultimatum

Britain and the European Commission were condemned for mishandling the "mad cow" epidemic. The European Parliament gave Jacques Santer, the Commission President, nine months to reform the EU executive or face dismissal moves.......**Page 14**

Arms terror link

Several countries hoping to join Nato have sold arms to regimes which sponsor terrorism, according to CIA documents .... **Page 16**

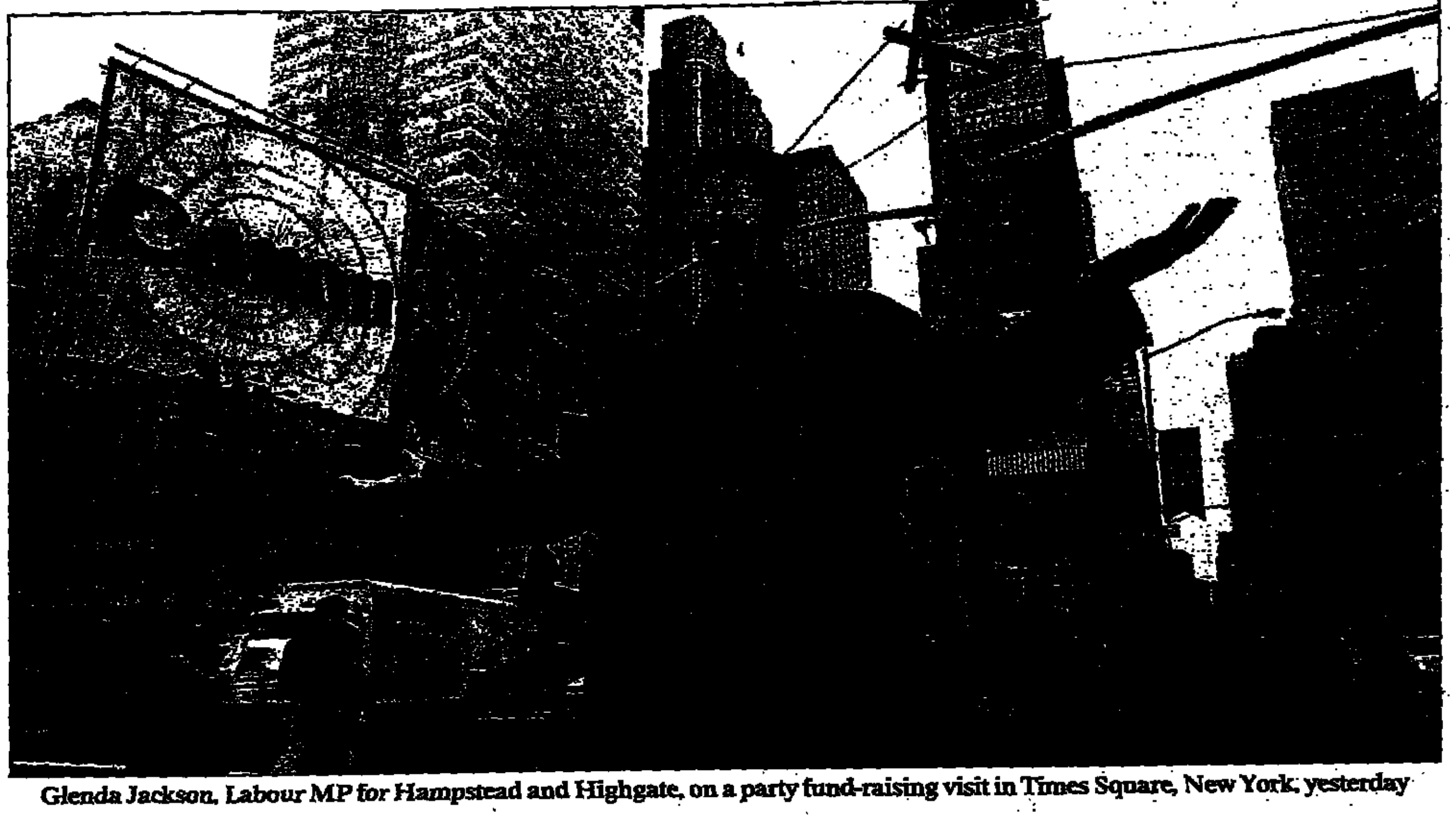
Stasi trial

Attempts to shield fugitive terrorists are likely to be exposed in a trial in Berlin of four former East German Stasi secret police officers ....**Page 17**

Microlight pilot mapped out mayhem

■ The pilot of a microlight aircraft which caused mayhem at Glasgow airport and disrupted several flights was hopelessly lost after folding his map the wrong way, Paisley Sheriff Court heard. Jaysukh Madhvani, 44, from New Barnet, Hertfordshire, said: "I, in effect, flew off my map." He has now qualified as an instructor. The court admonished him.......**Page 12**

RICHARD POHLE



Glenda Jackson, Labour MP for Hampstead and Highgate, on a party fund-raising visit in Times Square, New York, yesterday

BUSINESS

Rail profit: Eversholt, the privatised rail leasing company, was sold to HSBC, the bank, for £727 million, making a £40 million profit for 60 employees.......**Page 25**

Sales rise: Retail sales rose surprisingly in January although economists attributed the rise to sales discounts on clothing.......**Page 25**

Sainsbury's bank: The supermarket group launched a banking joint venture with the Bank of Scotland. It will offer telephone banking, two credit cards and two savings accounts.......**Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 25.1 points to close at 4357.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 96.8 to 97.6 after a rise from $1.6017 to $1.6120 and from DM2.7085 to DM2.7306 ... **Page 28**

SPORT

Football: England's third representative meeting against Italy in eight days, between a *Serie B* XI and a Nationwide League XI, ended in a 1-1 draw in Genoa .**Page 45**

Rugby union: Va'aiga Tuigamala, the former All Black, joined Newcastle from Wigan rugby league club on a five-year contract said to be worth in excess of £500,000 .... **Page 48**

Cricket: As England start a one-day series against New Zealand, they must realise that the benefits of a winning habit can be extended to this form of the game ... **Page 44**

Racing: The 21 jockeys who refused to ride at Haydock Park in October will learn today whether their halting of racing on safety grounds will be punished .... **Page 43**

Charmless angel: John Travolta's charmed cinematic renaissance comes to a juddering halt with *Michael* ....**Page 35**

Backing a bunch: Two versions of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* are out on video this week: Disney's cartoon of 1996, and the 1923 Lon Chaney film.......**Page 36**

Buffalo boys: Benedict Nightingale on a worthy revival of David Mamet's modern masterpiece about the ethics of business, *American Buffalo*, with fine acting and a subtle plot.......**Page 37**

Present laughter: Sandra Bernhard flew in to appear at Leicester's Comedy Festival but her raw, reckless energy dissipated amid ill-focused bouts of sarcasm and blunted satire ....**Page 37**

Waiting to pounce: Modelisers are men who have no interest in fashion — but an obsessive interest in top models ....**Page 19**

Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the hands-off or hands-on approach to prostate cancer; helping mothers with incontinence; a health drink that isn't quite wine.......**Page 18**

Discount holidays: The rise in sterling's value has led to increases of 25 per cent in spending power on European holidays ....**Page 41**

Past treasures: *Michael Levey on an Italian jewel; Madeleine* Ginsburg looks back to the new look; Jeanette Winterson on an eccentric English poet ... **Pages 38,39**

It seems that the West is beginning to understand that in the confrontation between Nato and Russia someone is sooner or later going to have to give way. And that someone in not necessarily going to be Russia. Time, moreover — as the date of the Madrid summit draws inexorably closer — is playing into Moscow's hands. — *Segodnya*

9, 11, 19, 36, 39, 41. Bonus: 13

IN THE TIMES

■ **POP**
Wet Wet Wet reached number one, but who wants to hear them now? Caitlin Moran on the short life of hit singles

■ **INTERVIEW**
Valerie Grove meets the BBC's Nick Ross

Preview: The spirit of Basil Fawlty pervades a chaotic comprehensive. *Chalk* (BBC1, 9.30pm). **Review:** Peter Barnard on the bare-bottomed cheek of Jonathan Meades.......**Page 47**

Long Marcher

Deng Xiaoping's long career is a mirror held up to the turbulent history of China's Communist revolution ....**Page 21**

A proper scepticism

There is a world of difference between the "yes, if" to which Labour has been leaning and the "no, unless" that Mr Rifkind's hostility implies.......**Page 21**

Raiders of lost legends

If they really discover Atlantis in Bolivia, this may be a great day for the prehistorians and proto-archaeologists.......**Page 21**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Voters afraid of Britain becoming part of a European superstate are being served notice that they should not vote Labour. The Tories are becoming the anti-federalist party, which will accelerate the return of Conservative voters....... **Page 20**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

If Richard Branson is to rise to what he calls "the greatest challenge ever" and turn the West Coast line around, he will need the backing and, indeed, enthusiastic support of a future Labour Government. As one of the few genuinely popular capitalists around, he could just persuade the party that it would be worth their while.......**Page 20**

PETER RIDDELL

The majority of the Cabinet is hostile to single currency, and does not mind the public knowing ..**Page 13**

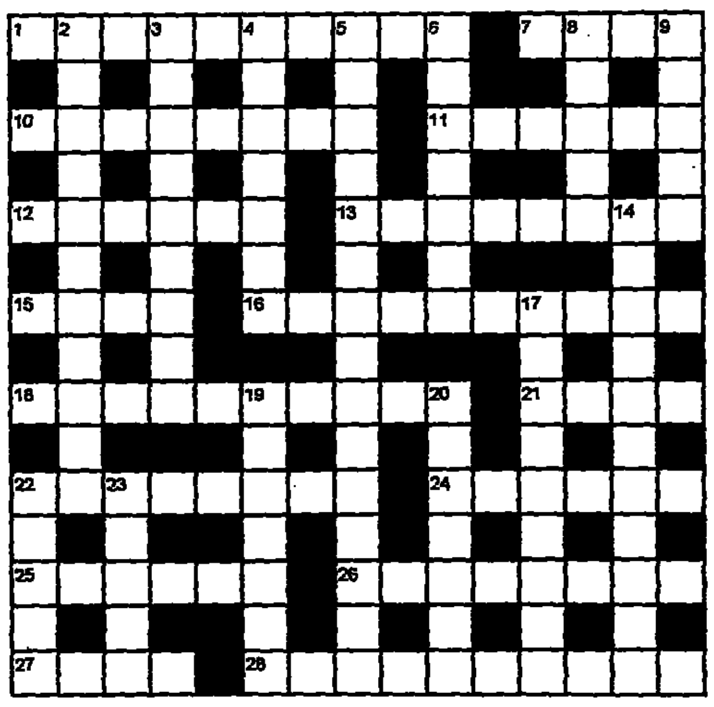
JOHN BRYANT

Mamo Wolde, who won the Olympic marathon in Mexico City in 1968, is about to set out on the last, and toughest, lap of the worst ordeal of his life .... **Page 46**

Deng Xiaoping, paramount leader of China.......**Page 23**

"Gay genes" and selective abortion; morality and the arms trade; bishop's choice of the Koran for Lent.......**Page 21**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,408



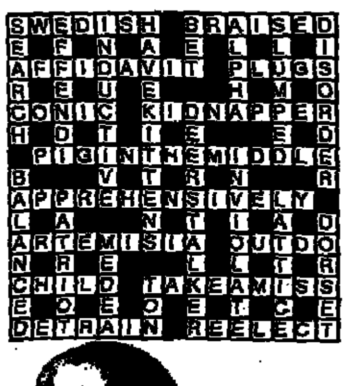
ACROSS

1 Proposed position for part of prison (3,7).
7 Security device isn't totally broke? (4).
10 Activist ignited article in plant (8).
11 Consult reference books to appear brighter (4,2).
12 Fight with volunteers in military society (6).
13 Critic who watches repeats? (8).
15 Language route into universities (4).
16 Move from Nigeria to capital of Malawi, perhaps (10).
18 Collection and delivery leading to court contest (10).
21 Moving protest after beheading is mischievous (4).
22 Single traveller on coach a long time ago (5,3).
24 Kind of bait used by anglers (6).
25 A hard worker on the land recovered from scratch (6).
26 Causes Richard got extremely involved with (8).
27 Recoil from an act of violence (4).
28 From Europe lad derived flexible way to rise (4,6).

DOWN

2 Put minor changes to soldier, perhaps – not major (11).
3 Cook, say, food for outlaw (5,4).
4 Brewer's work enjoyed by traditionalists (4,3).
5 A small tempest, really, leaves disruption in its wake? (1,5,2,1,6).
6 Free supply (7).
8 Like a garden suburb, out of line (5).
9 Person calling number is this musician's employer (5).
14 Public school a distant prospect for Thomas Gray (4,7).
17 Old part-time soldiers drill on range (9).
19 Term's incomplete without a head instructor (7).
20 Practical joke on jerk (3-4).
22 He ruthlessly exploits nurse, for example (5).
23 Danish courtier involved in heroics? Not he! (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,407



SWEDISH BRAISED
E F N A E L L I
AFFIDAVIT PLUGS
R E U E H M O
CONIC KIDNAPPER
H D T I E E D
PIGINTHEMIDDLE
B V T R N R
APPREHENSIVELY
L A N T I A D
ARTEMISIA OUTDO
N R E L C T R
CHILD TAKEAMISS
E O E O E T C E
DETRAIN REELECT

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Latest Road and Weather conditions

UK Weather- All regions	**0336 444 910**
UK Roads - All regions	**0336 401 410**
Inside M25	0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads	0336 401 747
National Motorways	0336 401 748
Continental Europe	0336 401 910
Channel crossing	0336 401 388
Motoring to Heathrow & Gatwick airports	0336 407 505

Weather by Fax The Met. Office

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax

West Country	416 334	Scotland	416 340
Wales	416 335	N.Ireland	416 341
Midlands	416 336	London	416 342
East Anglia	416 337	National Satellite Weather picture	416 397
N.West	416 338		
N.East	416 339		
Metfax Marine inshore leisure forecasts			416 398

World City Weather The Met. Office

153 destinations world wide
6 day forecast

by Phone dial	0336 411216
by Fax (index page)	0336 416333

Motoring

Europe Country by Country	0336 401 885
European fuel costs	0336 401 886
French Motorways	0336 401 887
Seaport information	0336 401 882
Disneyland Paris	0336 401 409
Le Shuttle	0336 401 895

AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399

Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to poll receive mode

AA Developments Ltd. Norfolk House Priestley Road Basingstoke RG24 9NY

Calls are charged at 45p per minute cheap rate. 50p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Prestatyn, Flintshire, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Lerwick and Baltasound, Shetland, 6C (43F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries and Galloway, 1.34in; highest sunshine: Hayling Island, Hampshire, 1hr.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1996

FLIGHT SAVERS
LONDON TO PARIS
FROM £59 RETURN
LONDON TO MILAN
FROM £99 RETURN
LONDON TO GLASGOW
FROM £59 RETURN
0345 666777
or contact your travel agent. All major credit cards accepted. Subject to availability, airport tax and differing travel periods. Restrictions apply. Limited booking period only.
AirUK

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have bright or sunny intervals but also some showers, mainly in the West but also over northern England, where there may be some outbreaks of rain later. It will be a windy day and it will feel rather cold.

Scotland and Northern Ireland should have sunny intervals and blustery showers at first, but it will become increasingly cloudy with rain at times, falling as snow on Scottish hills. It will be very windy, and rather cold.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Midlands, Channel Isles:** mainly dry, some bright or sunny intervals. Wind strong southwesterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E England, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** mainly dry and bright at first, becoming rather cloudy with showery rain. Wind strong southwesterly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **SW England, Wales:** bright or sunny intervals and scattered showers. Perhaps some drizzle later. Wind strong to gale southwesterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** sunny intervals and showers at first. Cloud and outbreaks of rain spreading from west. Wind strong to gale force southwesterly. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll:** sunny intervals and blustery showers, wintry at times. Becoming cloudy with further showers or longer spells of rain, some snow on hills. Wind strong to gale southwesterly, perhaps severe gale at times. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Orkney, Shetland:** bright intervals and blustery wintry showers, perhaps some longer spells of rain. Snow on hills. Wind southwesterly, gale or severe gale. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** unsettled and windy. Rain at times, especially in the North.

AROUND BRITAIN

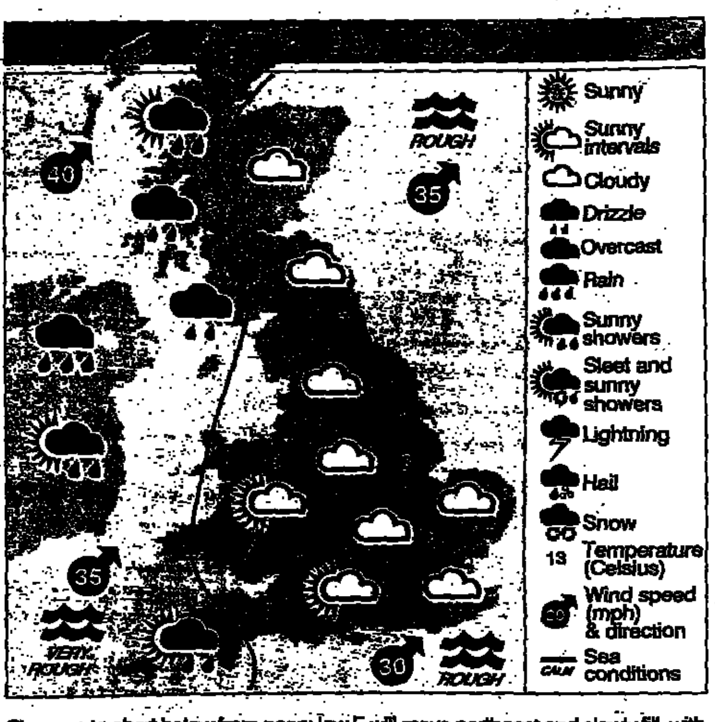
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	0.42	8	46	r	Lowestoft	-	0.01	8	46	r
Aspatria	0.1	0.42	9	48	r	Manchester	-	0.08	12	54	r
Aviemore	-	0.33	7	45	r	Margate	-	0.02	9	48	du
Belfast	0.4	0.39	11	52	r	Minehead	-	0.35	12	54	r
Birmingham	-	0.09	10	50	r	Morecambe	-	0.31	11	52	r
Bognor R	-	0.01	9	48	c	Newcastle	0.7	0.28	10	50	r
Bournem'th	-	0.18	10	50	g	Newquay	X				
Bristol	-	0.11	11	52	gS	Norwich	-	0.02	9	48	r
Buxton	-	0.09	9	48	sh	Oxford	-	0.08	10	50	r
Cardiff	-	0.09	11	52	r	Penzance	X	0.07	12	54	gS
Clacton	-	0.08	8	46	r	Poole	-	0.89	10	50	r
Colwyn Bay	-	0.50	11	52	r	Prestatyn	X	0.18	13	55	r
Cromer	-	0.02	9	48	d	Ross-o-wye	-	0.21	11	52	r
Edinburgh	-	0.39	11	52	r	Ryde	X				
Eskdalemuir	-	1.34	8	46	sn	Salcombe	X				
Exmouth	-	0.15	11	52	g	Sandown	-	0.02	10	50	d
Falmouth	-	0.04	11	52	gS	Saunton Snd	-	0.65	12	54	gS
Fishguard	0.1	0.18	10	50	r	Scarboro'	-	0.05	9	48	r
Folkestone	-	-	9	48	c	Shanklin	X				
Glasgow	-	0.80	11	52	r	Shrewsbury	X				
Guernsey	-	0.04	12	54	r	Skegness	-	0.02	9	48	sh
Hastings	-	0.02	9	48	c	Southend	X				
Hayling I	1.0	0.06	9	48	r	Southport	-	0.17	12	54	r
Herne Bay	-	0.01	9	48	du	Southsea	-	0.16	10	50	r
Hove	-	X	9	48	du	Stornoway	-	0.93	9	48	sl
Hunstanton	X	0.02	10	50	c	Swanage	-	0.06	10	50	r
Isle of Man	-	0.20	10	50	r	Teignmouth	-	0.15	12	54	r
Jersey	-	0.01	11	52	c	Tenby	-	0.25	10	50	r
Kinloss	0.8	0.04	10	50	r	Tiree	0.2	1.00	10	50	g
Leeds	0.1	0.08	12	54	r	Torquay	-	0.20	11	52	g
Lerwick	-	0.80	6	43	sl	Tynemouth	-	0.23	10	50	g
Leuchars	0.3	0.33	10	50	sl	Ventnor	-	0.01	9	48	g
Littlehmptn	-	0.01	9	48	sh	West-s-mare	-	0.06	12	54	c
London	-	0.01	11	52	r	Weymouth	-	0.02	10	50	r

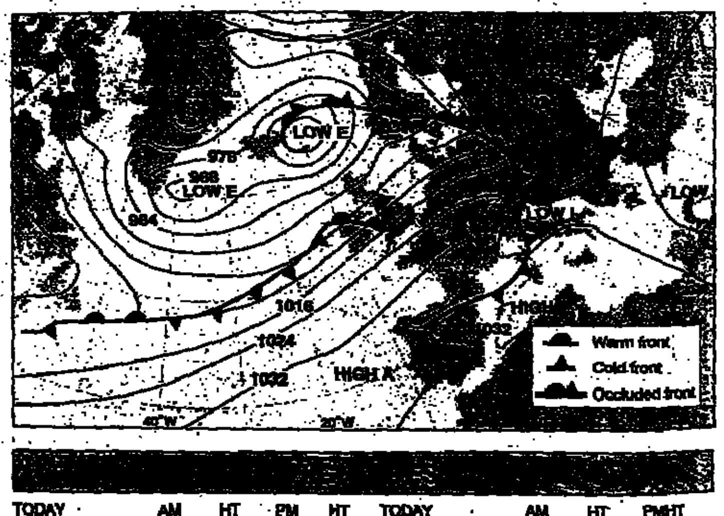
ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	14	57	f	Corfu	12	54	c	Majorca	16	61	s	Rome	13	55	s
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	1	34	sl	Malaga	18	64	s	S F'isco	12	54	s
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Dublin	3	37	r	Malta	15	59	s	S Paulo	24	75	c
Algiers	15	59	f	Dubrovnik	12	54	c	Melb'rne	37	99	s	Salzburg	6	43	f
Amst'dm	8	46	s	Faro	17	63	s	Mexico C	X			Santiago	27	81	s
Athens	11	52	f	Florence	11	52	s	Miami	24	75	f	Seoul	1	34	f
B Aires	29	84	s	Frankfurt	7	45	c	Milan	9	48	s	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	21	70	s	Funchal	16	61	f	Montreal	7	45	s	St'kholm	0	32	f
Bangkok	33	91	f	Geneva	7	45	r	Moscow	-17	1	f	Strasb'rg	9	48	r
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	17	63	s	Munich	3	37	r	Sydney	25	77	f
Barcelona	14	57	s	Helsinki	-6	21	s	N Delhi	21	70	s	Tangier	17	63	s
Beirut	19	66	f	Innsbrck	3	37	f	N York	11	52	s	Tel Aviv	19	66	f
Belgrade	3	37	s	Istanbul	4	39	f	Nairobi	28	82	s	Tenerife	20	68	c
Berlin	5	41	r	Jeddah	27	81	f	Naples	12	54	s	Tokyo	9	48	c
Bermuda	17	63	f	Jo'burg	26	79	s	Nice	12	54	f	Toronto	8	46	f
Biarritz	15	59	c	Karachi	X			Oslo	-1	30	sn	Tunis	16	61	f
Borde'x	13	55	f	L Angels	20	68	s	Paris	10	50	f	Valencia	18	64	s
Brussels	10	50	f	L Palmas	20	68	c	Peking	9	48	s	Vanc'ver	7	45	r
Budapst	1	34	f	Le Touqet	9	48	f	Perth	28	82	s	Venice	8	46	s
Cairo	23	73	s	Lisbon	15	59	c	Prague	3	37	sl	Vienna	4	39	f
Cape Tn	25	77	s	Locarno	6	43	c	Reykjavik	1	34	sn	Warsaw	0	32	s
Ch'church	19	66	X	Luxembg	9	48	r	Rhodes	18	64	s	Wash'ton	7	45	f
Chicago	10	50	f	Luxor	25	77	s	Rio de J	34	93	f	Wel'ngton	18	64	X
Cologne	12	54	c	Madrid	11	52	s	Riyadh	28	82	s	Zurich	9	48	f

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon: low E will move northeast and slowly fill, with low D moving northeast and deepening. High A will stay centred off Portugal



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	00.34	6.6	13.00	6.7	Leith	01.35	5.0	13.54	5.1
Aberdeen	00.18	3.8	12.28	4.0	Liverpool	10.15	8.6	22.35	8.7
Avonmouth	06.01	12.1	18.27	12.3	Lowestoft	08.48	2.3	20.42	2.4
Belfast	09.52	3.4	22.26	3.1	Margate	11.15	4.2	23.24	4.4
Cardiff	05.47	11.2	18.13	11.4	Milford Haven	05.09	6.2	17.29	6.2
Devonport	04.39	5.0	17.03	5.0	Newquay	04.02	6.2	16.21	6.3
Dover	10.03	6.0	22.19	6.2	Oban	04.54	3.5	17.13	3.6
Dublin (N Wall)	10.42	4.0	23.00	3.8	Penzance	03.33	5.0	15.52	5.0
Falmouth	04.10	4.8	16.34	4.8	Portland	05.34	1.6	18.06	1.5
Greenock	11.28	3.1	-	-	Portsmouth	10.12	4.2	22.37	4.3
Harwich	10.51	3.6	23.09	3.5	Shoreham	10.11	5.8	22.38	5.8
Holyhead	09.27	5.2	21.47	5.1	Southampton	09.46	4.2	22.10	4.2
Hull (Albert D)	05.18	7.7	17.53	8.1	Swansea	05.06	8.6	17.27	8.7
Ilfracombe	04.54	8.3	17.16	8.3	Tees	02.36	4.7	14.53	4.9
King's Lynn	05.26	5.8	17.33	6.1	Walton-on-N	10.47	3.7	23.03	3.7

All times GMT. Heights in metres.

Sun rises: 7.05 am
Sun sets: 5.25 pm
Moon sets 5.51 am
Moon rises 3.48 pm
Full moon February 22

London 5.25 pm to 7.03 am
Bristol 5.35 pm to 7.12 am
Edinburgh 5.28 pm to 7.24 am
Manchester 5.29 pm to 7.16 am
Penzance 5.49 pm to 7.22 am

©TIMES NEWSPAPERS LIMITED, 1997.
Published and printed and licensed for distribution in electronic and all other derivative forms by Times Newspapers Ltd, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London E1 9XN, telephone 0171-782 5000 and also printed at Kirkby Road, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN, telephone 0151-546 2000. Thursday, February 20, 1997. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

THE TIMES 2

INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY

JANET BUSH
Kenneth Clarke spars with our economics editor
PAGE 29

TRAVEL
Late winter breaks and all the other best bargains
PAGES 40, 41

SPORT
Why an Olympic champion was run to ground
PAGES 42-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 46, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 1997

Inquiry sought in fresh BR 'fat cats' row

Eversholt four gain over £40m from sale

BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

FOUR directors of the Eversholt train leasing company hit the privatisation jackpot yesterday when they earned £42 million profit from the sale of the firm, sparking a new "fat cats" row over the break up of British Rail.

The four men became instant millionaires when Eversholt, owned by the Government until a £580 million management buyout in December 1995, was acquired by Forward Trust, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, for £726.5 million.

The sale prompted demands from Labour for a Commons inquiry into the "cheap" sale of state assets during rail privatisation that had allowed ten managers to make total profits of £103 million.

The biggest single beneficiary of the sale is its managing director, Andrew Jukes, who will realise around £15.9 million from the £110,000 he invested in the original management buyout.

His fellow full-time board members, Roger Aylwood, engineering director, and Colin Habgood, finance director, who is leaving the company, will make about £11.6 million each on their £80,000 investments. The fourth director, Peter Harper, a one day a week non-executive chairman, will retire with a £2.9 million return from his £19,800 investment.

The 66 Eversholt employees, a team of engineers, accountants and secretaries, who put in a total of £106,200, have yielded £15.3 million, an average of £230,000 each.

Four directors at the venture capital backers of the buyout, Stephen Curran, chief executive of Candover, Colin Buffin, a director of Candover, Hugh Mumford, managing director of Electra, and Robert Clark, a director of Electra, will share a total of around £600,000 personal profits.

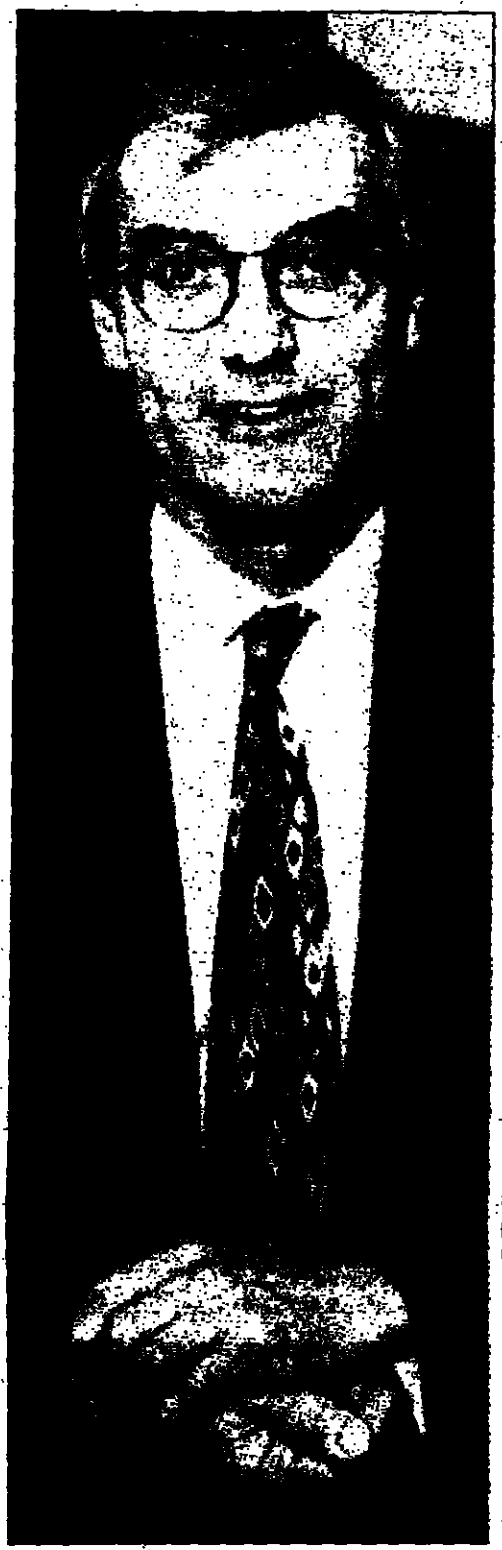
Mr Jukes, 50, a career British Rail and London Transport manager, said all the Eversholt directors had borrowed heavily to finance their investments in the management buyout, taking substantial personal risks. He had taken out an £85,000 bank loan and would have had to sell his six-bedroomed Surrey house if the buyout had failed. Mr Jukes, who drives a Volvo and whose main hobby is gardening, said he had no plans to give up his job or make big lifestyle changes.

He added: "I am not a man who planned to be wealthy. I shall be in work tomorrow... and will continue doing that job."

During the year to end December, Eversholt made pre-tax profits of £122.9 million on turnover of £219.1 million.

Andrew Smith, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the profits from the sale "shows the continuation of privatisation excesses which the Tories have failed to stop and have failed even to condemn."

The furore comes six months after the sale of the Porterbrook rolling stock leasing companies in which 50 former BR managers and staff shared an £80 million profits bonanza. Charterhouse merchant bank and other city backers of the deal stand to make around £500 million in total from the deal. Sandy Anderson, Porterbrook chairman, made £36 million.



Andrew Jukes: £15.9 million

Roger Aylwood: £11.6 million

Colin Habgood: £11.6 million

Peter Harper: £2.9 million

Bonham forgoes options

BY JASON NISSÉ

DEREK BONHAM, who is standing down as chief executive of Hanson to become executive chairman of Energy Group when it demerges this weekend, is leaving behind share options with a negative value of £1 million.

He holds options over 3.2 million shares at subscription prices of between 90.1p and 128.2p. Yesterday Hanson's shares stood at 89.5p, giving the options a negative value of £1.01 million. Iri Engerlhardt, who runs Energy's US side, is leaving behind options with a negative value of £393,000.

At Energy Mr Bonham will be entitled to a bonus of up to two thirds of his £450,000 salary if he takes the bonus in shares, and can join the incentive plan offering a further 25 per cent of his salary after three years. He will also receive £150,000 a year as non-executive chairman of Imperial Group, the tobacco company demerged from Hanson.

Sales spree helps retail spending to rebound

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

HIGH Street spending rebounded after a dismal December with consumers splashing out on bargains in the January sales. Retail sales increased 0.6 per cent — taking the annual growth rate to 4.6 per cent, its highest level since March 1989.

Economists said the sharp rise, which was well above market expectations, would ensure that the Bank of England will maintain pressure for a base rate rise. Minutes from the January monetary meeting, which were also published yesterday, showed that Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, "strongly recommended" an immediate quarter-point rise and that the Bank felt a half-point rise would be needed "fairly soon".

The data helped the pound to make sharp gains on the foreign exchanges, reversing much of Tuesday's heavy losses. The pound closed up more than 2 pfenings at DM2.7306, while it climbed just over a cent to $1.6120. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose 0.8 to 97.6.

The retail sales figures were boosted by strong growth in purchases of clothing and footwear — up 1.5 per cent in January — and sales of household goods, which rose 0.7 per cent. Food sales also rose 0.5 per cent, continuing the upward trend of the past eight months.

Economists pointed out that these sectors had seen heavy discounting in the January sales and tough competition between supermarkets. Simon Briscoe, UK economist at Nikko Europe, said the figures showed that consumers were still looking for bargains and that there is no upward pressure on high street prices. The less volatile three-monthly figures also suggest that high street spending is not accelerating out of control with growth registering 3.9 per cent — in line with the past two quarters. Over December and January retail sales actually fell 0.2 per cent.

Mr George repeated his advice to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, in the January monetary meeting that interest rates should rise, although his stance was less aggressive than in December. Mr George told the Commons Treasury Select Committee on Monday that there was a "pretty narrow difference" between the Bank's view on rates and Mr Clarke's.

But in the January minutes Mr George warned the Chancellor that if no move on rates was made, the Bank and the market would feel that it was "falling rather clearly behind the game and taking risks with the inflation objective". The Chancellor held his ground at the time, arguing that the rising pound was keeping a lid on inflation, and that a rate increase might cause the pound to appreciate further. He also highlighted the weak levels of manufacturing output, GDP growth and producer price inflation.

Data released yesterday in the US, meanwhile, showed that inflation remains muted, while the trade gap has begun to grow. The consumer price index rose 0.1 per cent, below market expectations, because of a drop in food prices. The trade deficit in December widened to $10.3 billion, from $7.9 billion, as exports suffered from the rising dollar.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4357.4	(+25.1)
Yield	3.61%	
FTSE All share	2121.75	(+9.79)
Nikkei	18599.12	(+128.37)
New York:		
Dow Jones	7059.77	(-7.69)*
S&P Composite	815.62	(-0.67)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	$5\frac{5}{16}$%*	($5\frac{1}{4}$%)
Long Bond	$100\frac{22}{32}$*	($101\frac{1}{32}$)
Yield	6.57%*	(6.55%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	$6\frac{5}{32}$%	($6\frac{5}{16}$%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	$113\frac{3}{32}$	($113\frac{9}{16}$)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.6139*	(1.6065)
London:		
$	1.6123	(1.6015)
DM	2.7312	(2.7087)
FFr	9.2262	(9.1455)
SFr	2.3916	(2.3606)
Yen	200.04	(198.74)
£ Index	97.6	(96.8)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.6965*	(1.6855)
FFr	5.7330*	(5.6915)
SFr	1.4870*	(1.4705)
Yen	124.25*	(123.86)
$ Index	104.2	(104.1)
Tokyo close Yen 123.65		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (May)	$20.25	($20.15)
GOLD		
London close	$346.55	($345.35)

* denotes midday trading price

Woolwich up

Woolwich, the building society that is floating off on the stock market, may pay out bigger bonuses than expected. Profits last year rose from £333 million to £392 million.
Page 26

Medeva rise

Medeva, the pharmaceuticals group, raised pre-tax profits 31 per cent to £103.5 million in the year to December although it charged £65 million against this figure for restructuring.
Page 30

Money grows faster at Sainsbury's Bank

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

J SAINSBURY, the supermarkets group, launched its bank yesterday with an instant access account that offers customers by far the best interest rate in the market.

The account will give 5.75 per cent gross, paid monthly or annually, on any sum from £1. *Money Facts* said that similar accounts would pay that rate only on balances above £5,000.

Account-holders will get a Link cashcard and free phone banking. The bank is also offering a "Christmas Saver" account with 2.5 per cent interest and an annual bonus of 3 per cent, payable in cash or loyalty card points if no funds are withdrawn during the year. Sainsbury's Bank, which is owned 55 per cent by the supermarket group and 45 per cent by Bank of Scotland, opened for business yesterday at 244 Sainsbury's branches in Scotland, the North of England and the Midlands. It will be rolled out nationally over the next few months.

Launched with the two savings accounts and two credit cards, the bank intends to begin offering mortgages and personal loans in about three months. It will then look at offering current accounts, pensions and Peps.

Holders of the new Sainsbury's Classic and Gold Visa credit cards will be able to collect points on their Reward cards wherever they shop, even in rival supermarkets, but they will get more points for using Sainsbury's.

Card-holders will also get Reward points for transferring the balance from existing credit and store cards to Sainsbury's Bank credit cards.

Rodger McArthur, chief executive, said that the bank would have start-up costs of £6 million this year. He expects it to go into profit in its third year. It is starting out with £15 million of share capital.

All 11 million Reward Card holders will receive letters inviting them to join the bank. "If we get 250,000 customers in the first 12 months we'd be doing pretty well," Mr McArthur said.

Pennington, page 27

Car dealers convicted of falsifying accounts

BY ROBERT MILLER

TWO men who ran a Midlands motor company that crashed with debts of at least £25 million were yesterday found guilty of fraudulent trading at Oxford Crown Court.

After a five-month trial brought by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) and Leicester fraud squad, John Hayes of Rothley, Leicester, who founded the Swithland Group in 1975, and David Sharratt, a certified accountant of Thringstone, Leicester, were convicted and are expected to be sentenced tomorrow. The jury failed to reach a verdict on a third man.

At its peak Swithland, which advertised extensively on Central TV using Samantha Fox, the former page 3 girl, was one of the largest privately owned garage groups in the UK with 21 branches across the Midlands, more than 300 employees and selling up to 600 cars a week.

As the recession began to affect Swithland's business in 1990 the group's finance department prepared two sets of management accounts. One was for internal use and the other was shown to outsiders to falsely present Swithland as a profitable business.

The SFO said that acting on instructions "from above" Swithland employees systematically forged and tampered with records of every description, ranging from sales invoices and rental agreements to stock lists. Hayes and Sharratt used the falsified records to deceive bankers, mislead auditors and decrease their VAT liability.

City warned by Bank of peril in £1m bonus

BY ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England is to issue a stark warning on the dangers of paying excessive £1 million-plus City bonuses to traders who could take excessive risks to secure their generous annual payouts.

The unprecedented warning will come early next month in an article by Daniel Davis, a Bank economist, written for the second issue of *Financial Stability Review*, a magazine published by the Bank.

As *The Times* reported earlier this month, the Bank first became concerned about sharply rising bonuses in the Square Mile as far back as the summer of 1995.

With the direct backing of Eddie George, the Governor, the Bank commissioned Margaret Bray, an economist at the London School of Economics, to study the impact that different kinds of bonus structures have on traders' behaviour and the implications for the risk taken by the employer.

Senior sources at the Bank insist that it, as the statutory watchdog, will not intervene in the growing controversy about excessive City bonus packages.

Nevertheless, next month's article is to serve as a warning to firms that they should supervise more closely the activities of their dealers and futures brokers.

The Bank will also ensure that companies are aware of the risks that they run with their capital should their trading strategies go badly wrong.

ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH FOR YOUR LIFE ASSURANCE ?

There are many Banks, Building Societies, and Insurance Companies offering to arrange for you their own company's policies.
At Direct Life & Pension Services we are Independent Financial Advisers. We don't supply just one company's policies but are able to provide a range of policies from many different companies.

Save pounds on your life assurance premiums!

This in turn means that the illustrations we obtain are amongst the most competitive available, every time we quote.

Consider the illustrations below for monthly premiums, on a 20 year, £100,000 level term assurance.

Male & female both aged 35 next birthday and non-smokers	
Barclays Life	35.40
Nationwide Life	37.81
Friends Provident	41.58
Black Horse Life	46.38
Scottish Amicable	48.00
Abbey National Life	48.60
Scottish Life	58.51
We can arrange this for	25.02

Male & female both aged 45 next birthday and non-smokers	
Nationwide Life	83.50
Barclays Life	86.00
Friends Provident	88.99
Abbey National Life	101.40
Black Horse Life	101.68
Scottish Amicable	108.00
Scottish Life	137.40
We can arrange this for	53.30

PIA does not regulate these non-regulated term assurances. We do however offer advice on regulated and non-regulated life assurances

So if you are considering taking out a life assurance , decreasing term (mortgage protection) or critical illness plan and would like 'Independent Financial Advice' phone us at local rates on

0345 419410

direct Life & Pension Services

Direct Life & Pension Services Ltd.
Direct Life & Pension Services Limited is an Appointed Representative of Ward Mortgages Limited who are Independent Financial Advisers regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for investment business.
Registered in England no. 2813275

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاهمال

Action by Oxford Biomedica

Oxford Biomedica, the gene therapy company, is taking legal action against two investors whom it alleges failed to honour underwriting commitments given at the time of its flotation on the Alternative Investment Market.

The company has accused Stockton Trading, a Bahamas-based dealer and Kaj Kjellquist, a Swedish private investor, of failing to cover £1.15 million of the £6.15 million it first hoped to raise.

Oxford's shares were placed with institutions at 88p on the understanding that the full amount was underwritten. When the company admitted it had raised only £5 million, the shares opened at 42½p. They now trade at 50½p.

Institute post

Bernard Rickinson, a director of Bodycote International, the engineering company, is leaving to become chief executive of the Institute of Materials.

New pursuits

JKX Oil & Gas, the oil company with interests in the former Soviet Union, has parted with David Robson, a director. He is leaving to pursue private business interests in Eastern Europe and central Asia.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	19.95	18.45
Belgium Fr	58.57	54.27
Canada $	2.283	2.123
Cyprus Cyp£	0.842	0.787
Denmark Kr	10.86	10.06
Finland Mkk	8.62	7.97
France Fr	9.51	8.86
Germany Dm	2.85	2.64
Greece Dr	442	416
Hong Kong $	13.08	12.08
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.08	1.00
Israel Shk	5.67	5.02
Italy Lira	2825	2650
Japan Yen	212.30	196.30
Malta	0.651	0.596
Netherlds Gld	3.175	2.945
New Zealand $	2.47	2.25
Norway Kr	11.36	10.56
Portugal Esc	282.00	263.50
S Africa Rd	7.80	7.00
Spain Pta	240.00	223.00
Sweden Kr	12.55	11.75
Switzerland Fr	2.48	2.30
Turkey Lira	203400	189400
USA $	1.704	1.574

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

ALAN WELLER

Eastern promise: Jack Wilson, right, chairman of London Forfaiting Company, with Statis Papoutes, chief executive, said the acceptance of Russia as a reasonable credit risk had helped the trade finance group to increase its pre-tax profits 40 per cent to £38 million last year. Mr Wilson said Eastern Europe was a particularly strong area for LFC. Earnings per share rose from 19.2p to 27.0p; a final dividend of 7.5p, payable April 24, makes a year total of 11.2p.

R-R wins $96m contract for US fighter jet engine

By Oliver August

ROLLS-ROYCE was awarded a $96 million contract from the US Government yesterday to develop an engine for the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), the $170 billion strike aircraft for the next century.

The contract is a significant success for the enginemaker in the dogfight to secure work on what is likely to be the only new American fighter programme in the next 20 years.

Rolls-Royce said the JSF development contract could result in work even more valuable than the contract for the Eurofighter engines. A spokesman said: "Several hundred Eurofighters will be built but it is estimated that more than 3,000 JSF aircraft could be needed by 2030."

The JSF engine programme would create thousands of jobs for technicians and engineers if the Rolls-Royce engine design was chosen by the US Government.

Currently, Boeing and Lockheed Martin, the main contractors developing the JSF, are using Pratt & Whitney engines for their prototypes. But Rolls-Royce is confident that its alternative engine stands a reasonable chance of displacing the Pratt & Whitney design.

Rolls-Royce is already co-operating with Boeing and Lockheed on the vertical lift-off capability of the JSF. The aircraft will be able to take off like a helicopter, similar to the Harrier jump jet that also uses Rolls-Royce technology.

The spokesman said: "The new contract means that we now also have an involvement in the main engine work, rather than just being a components supplier on the lift element."

Rolls-Royce will be co-operating with GE Aircraft Engines of the US and Allison, the American engine company owned by Rolls-Royce. The agreement to work together was struck last year and the JSF engine development programme will run for four years, with a follow-on option of another three years.

British Aerospace, the other large British aerospace company involved in the development of jump jets, is still looking to join Boeing or Lockheed after its own JSF bid was rejected by the US Government last year.

BAe is under no immediate pressure to make a decision on which bid to join. While Boeing and Lockheed are both courting BAe, the group is said to be more likely to choose Boeing in the wake of its merger with McDonnell Douglas, a former BAe partner on the Harrier and the Hawk training aircraft.

Pension fund criticises Apple

CALPERS, the $108 billion Californian state pension fund, has targeted two of the US's best-known companies, Apple Computers and Reebok, as being among America's top ten financial underperformers (Jason Nissé writes).

The annual list is used by CALPers as the basis for shareholder activism. CALPers has already moved against Apple, recently leading an attempt to oust part of the computer group's board.

CALPers has $3 billion invested in the UK, but has yet to spotlight a UK company. Research shows that firms targeted by CALPers outperform the Standard & Poor's 500 by an average of 66 per cent.

CALPers says Apple has lost market share in personal computers through management's lack of experience, and that the Reebok shoe company's chiefs are not accountable enough.

Tempus, page 28

Market rise may boost Woolwich payouts

By Anne Ashworth

WOOLWICH savers and borrowers may enjoy larger than expected payouts when the society makes its stock market debut in early July. The rise in the stock market has boosted the estimated value of the aspiring bank to more than £3.4 billion, 8 per cent higher than the estimate made last December.

This could mean that the basic distribution of 450 free shares to be given to the 2.57 million qualifying Woolwich customers will be worth more than £900, against the earlier estimate of £844, based on a mid-point price for the shares.

In 1996, its last full year as a mutual before its conversion to a bank, the Woolwich raised its profits 18 per cent to a record £392 million, aided by the recovery in the housing market.

John Stewart, chief executive, reported that all divisions made money. Even the Woolwich's estate agency arm, established in 1987, finally made a profit of £2.5 million after years of losses. The profit figure excludes the society's conversion expenses, which were £15 million in 1996. The total cost of the change of status will be some £50 million.

To take full advantage of the increased demand for mortgages, the Woolwich spent £83 million on cashbacks and discount offers to attract new borrowers. These incentives helped it to raise its share of new loans from 4.2 per cent to 7.6 per cent.

Air deal 'may force fares up'

TRANSATLANTIC air fares could soar by up to 40 per cent unless British Airways and American Airlines are forced to give up hundreds of Heathrow landing slots in their proposed alliance, according to a study by the Consumer Association of America (Richard Thomson writes).

The study was published as talks between US and British officials on an "open skies" agreement restarted in Washington yesterday. The CAA said that reduced transatlantic competition resulting from the alliance could cost travellers an extra $500 million a year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Labour pours scorn on Anglian job cuts

ANGLIAN WATER, which cut 300 jobs yesterday, was attacked by Labour for not delivering a better service to John Major, the Prime Minister. The utility, responsible for the water supply in his Huntingdon constituency, announced a restructuring programme intended to improve customer service. It is shedding a quarter of its 1,200 workforce and has set aside £20 million to pay for redundancies.

Labour said the cuts were evidence that privatisation benefited companies but not customers. Ian McCartney, Labour's employment spokesman, called the cuts "another disgraceful example of how privatisation of the utilities has benefited a few at the top, with staff and customer service paying the price".

UK companies in top 30

FIVE British companies have been named among the world's 30 best stocks, as chosen by analysts worldwide for Goldman Sachs, the US investment bank. This compares with three from Japan and Switzerland and one from Germany. The five UK companies are Bass, BAT Industries, HSBC, Sema and Unilever. The companies were chosen for their long-term prospects and are expected to produce absolute returns of 20 per cent over the next year to 18 months.

MP attacks Halifax

DOUGLAS FRENCH, chairman of the Commons Building Society Group, has accused the Halifax Building Society, which plans to become a £10 billion bank this summer, of adopting a "morally indefensible" position over proposed bonus payouts for the elderly, widows and the disabled whose accounts are held in trust. He said that the Halifax's position in continuing to resist the principles set out in his Building Societies (Distributions) Bill was "untenable".

Rowell joins Celsis

JACK ROWELL, England's rugby manager, has been named as chairman of Celsis International, the biotechnology company whose monitors detect contamination in foodstuffs. Mr Rowell, an accountant, will work 15 days a year as a non-executive and will be paid a basic salary of £20,000. He has been on the company's board for two years. Before that he was a director of Dalgety with responsibility for the Golden Wonder and Homepride divisions.

Shorts confirms jobs

SHORT BROTHERS, the Belfast planemaker, confirmed the creation of 1,000 jobs yesterday after the announcement by Bombardier, its parent company, that it had given the go-ahead for two new regional aircraft. Bombardier said it may become involved in larger passenger jet development in competition with Boeing and Airbus. Roy McNulty, Shorts chairman, said: "Our Bombardier aircraft business, since privatisation, has grown from nothing in 1989 to £150 million a year now."

Black joins Sotheby's

CONRAD BLACK, the Hollinger chairman who made his fortune from *The Daily Telegraph*, yesterday joined the board of Sotheby's, the auctioneers. Mr Black will serve as a member of Sotheby's audit and compensation committee. His appointment comes shortly after Sotheby's launched an internal review into allegations that it smuggled art treasures into Britain from Italy. Sotheby's European arm admitted that the law had been broken and it suspended senior staff members.

We've always been recognised for the incisiveness of our thinking.

ACCA now stands for The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants: a new name for a long-established qualification, recognised and respected the world over. ACCA means quality and expertise.

Chartered Certified Accountants reach the top in their chosen fields because their ACCA training and experience gives them the financial management, analytical and strategic planning skills needed to take business forward.

So next time you need a top notch, professionally qualified accountant to add value to your business, think a little sharper. Think ACCA. Choose a Chartered Certified Accountant.

You can contact us on 0171 242 6855 (England & Wales), 0141 309 4097 (Scotland) and 00 353 1 491 0466 (Ireland).

Better qualified for business ACCA

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

SAVE UP TO 50% ON LUFTHANSA FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE

118 DESTINATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM

- Offer applies to Business Class & Economy*
- Travel from March 14 until October, 1997**
- Fly from Heathrow or London City airport
- No surcharges from Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow or Dublin airport†

Today we feature 22 destinations to Eastern Europe (there are also 12 cities in Germany) which you can visit by taking advantage of our offer. A full list of all 118 places you can go to was published last week. This could be an opportunity to visit a new country or return to a favourite city and save up to 50%. All the fare prices listed, right, are for two people travelling together.

HOW TO APPLY FOR YOUR FLIGHTS
Collect six differently numbered tokens, five from *The Times* and the token which appeared in *The Sunday Times* last Sunday. Send your tokens, to arrive before Monday, March 3, with the application form which will be published again on Saturday. Within 21 days you will receive an information pack with booking instructions, your discount voucher and full details of this offer. Full terms and conditions will also appear on Saturday with an application form.

THE TIMES FLIGHTS OFFER TOKEN 10 Lufthansa

*The offer does not apply to Business Class between UK/Ireland and Germany.
**Economy Class travel to long-haul destinations between July 1 and August 31 is excluded and there will be limited availability at Easter.
†Surcharges apply to UK/Ireland flights to Germany.

ALL PRICES QUOTED ARE FOR TWO PEOPLE
FROM BIRMINGHAM, DUBLIN, LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW TO EASTERN EUROPE

City Airport	Business	Economy
Almaty	£2,874	£899
Ashkabad	£2,310	£899
Baku	£1,690	£899
Belgrade	£864	£379
Bucharest	£898	£369
Budapest	£690	£299
Ekaterinburg	£2,301	£679
Katowice	£726	£359
Kazan	£1,868	£679
Minsk	£1,086	£449
Moscow	£1,334	£449
Nizhniy Novgorod	£1,802	£659
Novosibirsk	£2,874	£869
Perm	£1,868	£679
Prague	£556	£299
Samara	£1,868	£679
Sofia	£986	£319
St Petersburg	£1,156	£399
Riga	£1,074	£449
Tashkent	£2,703	£899
Warsaw	£670	£359
Zagreb	£792	£399

CHANGING TIMES

☐ Big grocers enter the money market ☐ Rich rewards for WPP boss ☐ Rare censure for a City bank

Banking on convenience

PENNINGTON

☐ ONE of the supermarket bosses now expanding into financial services was walking through the luxurious marbled lobby of the bank he had hooked up with. "Nice offices, these," he mused. "There must be a lot of money in banking."

Peter Ellwood, chief executive of Lloyds TSB, returned the compliment last week, saying that Tesco, Virgin and Marks & Spencer "frighten me more than the bigger traditional banks because they have got super brands and they are fleet of foot".

If you are in a business where your profits come from deciding the right time to take a few pennies off the price of a can of beans, one which is structured to ensure you receive a margin must seem quite attractive. British banks are on a roll; the current reporting season will show that they made £10 billion between them last year.

There are four areas where the supermarkets are well positioned to give them and other financial institutions nightmares. First, stores can act as middlemen for mortgage customers, passing on the business to whichever bank or lender they are linked with. Ditto insurance, with the option that stores can also act as intermediaries.

There is money to be made from credit cards, by chipping away at the usurious rates now being charged by Access, Visa and their like. Finally, Virgin has shown how a well-known brand can make headway allied to an unexciting investment product.

What is not clear is where the consumer comes in. Mortgage and insurance brokers already exist to provide the best deal, but few people bother to shop around. By going with your supermarket's bank, you are displaying the same blind loyalty as those who stick with the same building society all their lives. Lower rates on credit cards offer some savings, but only to those who use them as a form of long-term borrowing rather than paying them off every month.

The main benefit is said to be convenience. How much more pleasant to sit in an office at your supermarket fixing up your finances; the alternative is an identical office at your bank or building society. Hardly seems much different, does it, especially as the latter visits tend to be once-in-a-decade affairs?

We are in danger of taking the food retailers' propaganda for granted, rather than looking at the real value to the consumers of their expropriation of the margins previously taken by the banks and other financial businesses.

People are disenchanted with the banks, true. But supermarkets can go through a bad patch, as anyone who has followed the affairs of J Sainsbury recently will know.

Sorrell's big bill for making amends

☐ IT WOULD be easy to view Martin Sorrell as the fattest of fat cats. Mr Sorrell, the chief executive of WPP, the world's largest advertising and marketing company, has already bagged £2.9 million in free shares, and, assuming that the stock price remains above 230p until mid-March, will collect another £2.7 million of freebies. The third and fourth tranches of his incentive scheme could raise his winnings to £28 million by 1999, assuming that the shares surpass certain trigger points.

The scheme may be enough to make even the most avaricious utility executive blush, but Mr Sorrell can take much of the credit for turning round the advertising industry's answer to the *Titanic*. WPP, the owner of J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather, nearly went bust six years ago. A combination of deep recession, high debt and bad timing forced WPP shares down to 26p at one point.

This left Mr Sorrell — responsible for this empire-building, but never lacking in self-confidence —with a challenge. He wrote himself an incentive scheme that, at the time, appeared nearly impossible to achieve, though not so impossible that it escaped criticism from some institutional shareholders. WPP's financial results have indeed improved, dramatically so, and debt levels have shrunk. The shares, as a result, have climbed to the point that they could trigger Mr Sorrel's first payment and are about to hand him another.

We would hate to rain on Mr Sorrell's victory parade, but a couple of things are worth bearing in mind. First, his incentive scheme was approved in mid-1995, when the economies of western Europe and America, its main markets, were roaring back to life. Given such economic growth, only disastrous management would have prevented WPP from clawing back some ground.

Second, it may be premature to laud Mr Sorrell as a true turnround hero. The shares were above 600p in 1989, before it all fell apart. His rich reward has come from repairing some, but a long way from all, the damage that his earlier actions did to shareholder value.

Public check on Barings

☐ *MEET* the new Barings — a bit like the old Barings. There was little more than a dull twitch when the bank was prodded through the bars of its cage on London Wall last night about the latest ruling from the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers.

Barings had been found guilty of a serious failure over a period of two months to obey the requirements of the Takeover Code, more through torpor, it would seem, than any degree of malice. The Panel handed out a public thrashing, and the beast turned round and went back to sleep again.

The matter concerned Applied Distribution, a food distributor whose dull name disguises a deeply boring nature that no one has become especially excited over before. Applied shares were idling at little more than 20p before Christmas but had nearly doubled by the end of December. The Code requires the Panel to be notified if, following a possible bid approach, the shares see an untoward rise, that rise being defined as 10 per cent. This Barings failed to do, even though various approaches had been received early in December.

While there is no actual evidence of a leak, it is pretty clear that someone either dealt or attempted to deal in the shares. That is not a matter for the Panel, and it has little to do with Barings either — the bank is merely being criticised for failing to keep in touch. But shares like this do not move without reason.

Do not expect much criminal action from the Stock Exchange or the other authorities for any insider dealing. Shares that do not rise in anticipation of a bid approach are the exception, not the rule. For its part the Panel is restricted to public criticism. But such action can hurt more than financial penalties. It does not do the client list any favours.

Takeover Panel gives Barings a reprimand

By Sarah Cunningham

THE Takeover Panel yesterday reprimanded Barings, the merchant bank, for its conduct as adviser to Applied Distribution, a small warehousing and logistics company.

The panel also expressed concern about a leak of price-sensitive information about bid approaches made to the company (See Pennington, this page).

Barings is criticised for not consulting the panel on two occasions when Applied Distribution's share price moved sharply and a statement about takeover approaches would have been appropriate under the takeover code. Barings failed to respond to a request for comment. The approaches were made in early December, a month after Applied Distribution had issued a profits warning.

The warning sent its shares tumbling from 62½p to a low of 21½p on December 18. But they then rallied in heavy trading to 40p by the end of the month and to 46½p on January 30.

The panel said yesterday: "The executive is naturally concerned that these price increases may have resulted from a leak in relation to the approaches received by Applied Distribution although there was no speculation about this in the media." Barings has put forward various market explanations for the share price movement. The panel said: "These factors might constitute a plausible explanation, but it has not itself conducted an investigation into the dealings over this period." It would be up to the Stock Exchange or the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate possible leaks of price-sensitive information.

Applied Distribution finally announced that it had received the approaches after the close of trading on January 31. During that day, its share price rose more than 30 per cent. This took it above the level being offered by the potential bidders. The panel said: "The failure to consult the executive in the period up to January 30, and also during the morning of January 31, and the delay in issuing the announcements on January 31 were breaches of the code for which Barings is held primarily responsible."

It said it wanted to emphasise the importance of the rule under which a share price movement of 10 per cent should be regarded as "untoward" and grounds for considering making an announcement. If the company and its advisers do not want to make an announcement, they should still consult the panel."

Bookings up, losses down at Airtours

AIRTOURS, the second largest tour operator, said yesterday its summer bookings are up by 45 per cent and it has cut its seasonal loss by more than a third (Marianne Curphey writes).

The pre-tax loss for the three months to December 31 was down from £18 million to £12 million. This included £1 million start-up costs for the summer programme of Sunquest Holidays in California.

David Crossland, chairman, said the rate of increase in bookings would level off over the year because of capacity constraints.

Shares in Airtours, which had risen earlier in the week on bid rumours, fell 6½p to 970p.

WPP shares hit by profit-taking

By Eric Reguly

SHARES of WPP fell yesterday, but not far enough to jeopardise the £2.7 million bonus payments of Martin Sorrell, the chief executive (See Pennington, this page).

The shares of the advertising and marketing group closed at 252p, down 15p. Analysts said that the fall was because of profit-taking. The shares had climbed by about 10 per cent in recent weeks, on the expectation of strong financial results.

Mr Sorrell can collect the £2.7 million in free shares if the share price remains above 230p for 60 trading days. They broke though that level in mid-December and are on course to remain there until the March 14 trigger date.

WPP delivered profits at the top end of City forecasts. In the year to the December 31, pre-tax profits climbed 35 per cent to £153.3 million, on turnover that rose 8 per cent to £7.1 billion. Earnings per share went from 9.1p to 13.3p and net debt declined 32 per cent to £145 million.

The company said that it would make £25 million available for share buybacks in the open market. The amount represents less than 2 per cent of the share capital, but the company said that a greater amount would result in an advance corporation tax write-off. Mr Sorrell would not say when the buybacks were likely to happen.

The final dividend of 1.144p, to be paid on July 14, raises the total to 1.7p, up 32 per cent.

Egypt Gas set to make AMEC £30m

AMEC, the construction group, is set to make a £30 million profit from the imminent sale of its 20 per cent stake in Egypt Gas, set up to maintain the gas distribution system in Cairo (Paul Durman writes).

AMEC acquired its interest in Egypt Gas after installing the Cairo gas system in the early 1980s. The stake is valued at £4.3 million, but will be sold to a consortium of institutional investors for £38.1 million in cash. An announcement is expected today.

Egypt Gas made profits of £3.3 million in 1995 on turnover fo £32.7 million. However, AMEC's 1995 profits only included £200,000 of dividends from Egypt Gas.

SIEMENS
NIXDORF

He wanted to know whether we...

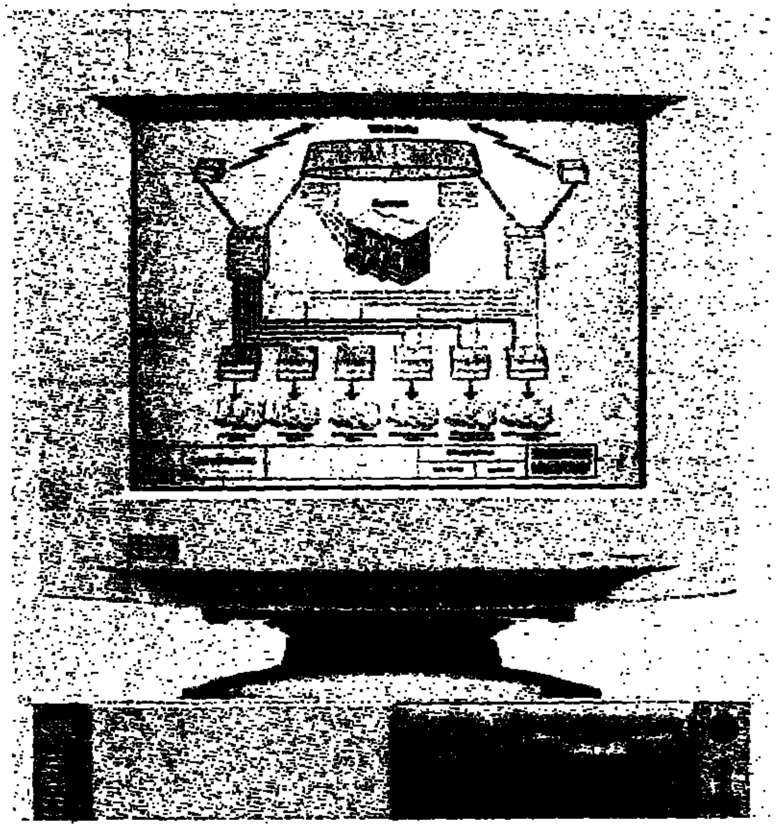
Selecting the right partner to supply your IT systems can be a stressful business.

You will find no shortage of companies claiming to have just what you need. But how many can you really trust to deliver?

How many are really capable of understanding your needs and delivering the products, solutions and services that will meet them?

Can they provide not just the hardware but also the software integration and networking skills to unleash its power?

Can you be sure about their service and support capabilities and their staying power over the long term?



...could deliver his new baby.

Siemens Nixdorf delivers more information technology systems, solutions and services than any other European company.

Everything from entry level PCs to enterprise servers and outsourcing services.

Siemens Nixdorf's unique User Centred Computing philosophy ensures that our solutions exactly meet user needs.

It enables you to derive the most from the latest developments in Information Technology while maximising returns on existing investments.

Little did he know, we already had.

The chances are that whatever your need - from a stand alone PC to an enterprise wide information infrastructure, Siemens Nixdorf has already delivered it.

From a hospital to the high street, the more important the role of IT the more likely you are to find Siemens Nixdorf.

We are the UK's leading provider of healthcare systems and the largest European-based provider of information systems for Manufacturing, Government, Retail and Financial organisations.

Whatever your baby, if it's important to you, contact Siemens Nixdorf.

We'll promise you a perfect delivery every time.

For further information call Siemens Nixdorf Information Systems Ltd. Siemens House, Oldbury, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8FZ Tel: 01344 850886 Fax: 01344 850812 www.sni.co.uk

Siemens Nixdorf: User Centred Computing

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

STOCK MARKET

CLARE STEWART

SB leads way as shares close at another high

A BUSY trading session saw the London market close at a record high yesterday after the overnight high on Wall Street. More than £5 billion flowed into the market to push the FT-SE 100 index 25.1 points higher to close at 4,357.4.

City dealers are expecting further progress, in spite of a weaker opening on Wall Street yesterday afternoon.

Drugs were back in the thick of the activity as the market gave further consideration to the 16 per cent rise in profits announced on Tuesday by **SmithKline Beecham**.

Positive talk from brokers helped the stock to move up sharply, leading the FT-SE 100 with a rise of more than 5 per cent to 941p, a gain of 46½p, and comfortably ahead of its previous high of 894.5p.

Others in the sector followed suit with **Glaxo** gaining 25p to £10.50, while **Medeva** added 3½p to 283½p after announcing better than expected results, with operating profits of £105 million and the total dividend increased to 4.8p.

Tobacco groups advanced on hopes that a number of lawsuits in the US might soon be settled. **BAT** moved up 17½p to 545½p, helped by speculation regarding a demerger of its financial interests, while **Imperial Tobacco** gained 10½p to 430p.

United Biscuits, *the pizzas to prawns food group, continued to attract attention, moving up 4p to 237½p.* **Unilever**, *the Anglo-Dutch group, set to boost its coffers with the sale of its speciality chemicals businesses, slid back from early gains to end at £15.93½, down 9p.*

Profit-taking and disappointment with the scale of the £25 million share buy-back knocked shares in WPP, the media group, 15p lower to 252p. The group, where Martin Sorrell is heading for a record bonus, delivered a 35 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £153.3 million, with the final dividend increased 32 per cent to 1.144p.

Vodafone tuned into further gains, rising 10p to 299p on the back of positive comment, though rival mobile phone group **Orange** slipped 4p to 211½p. **Cable and Wireless** added 7p to 505½p after Mercury, its subsidiary, won a £48 million contract to supply Lloyds TSB.

Rentokil fell 7½p to 473½, while **Booker**, the food group, was also unwanted, drifting 7½p lower to 356p. **Courtaulds**, the chemicals group dipped 5½p to 370p, on whispers of lower demand for acrylic fibre, one of its key products.

Martin Sorrell, of WPP, saw the shares slide 15p to 252p

Lower than expected restructuring costs at **Anglian Water** helped to buoy the shares, which added 9p to 639p. The water group is making a provision of £20 million and plans to shed up to 300 jobs.

Shares in **HSBC**, the banking group, dipped 3p to £15.54½ *after* **Forward Trust**, *a subsidiary, announced the £727 million acquisition of Eversholt Leasing, the train leasing company privatised in 1995.*

Elsewhere in the banking sector **Barclays** was dogged by bears and in spite of mixed response from brokers saw its shares slide 18p to £11.11, while **Royal Bank of Scotland** moved up 13p to 629p as buyers switched from Barclays. **Lloyds TSB** was also in demand moving up 3½p to 528p.

Advanced Power rang alarm bells among electronic component manufacturers after delivering a shock profit warning, just three months after floating. Its shares, launched at 70p in November, sank 13p to 46½*p.*

General Accident was cheered 8p higher to 845p, while **EMI Group**, *with results due next week, continued its recent strong form adding 23p to £12.44.*

Rolls-Royce, *the aero engine group, moved up 4p to* 225p after winning a share in a new US joint strike fighter programme.

Weak crude prices took the sheen off **BP**, which dropped 2½p to 684p, with **Shell** also off, down 9p to £10.79½. **JKX Oil & Gas** held steady at 91½p in spite of the surprise resignation of Dr David Robson, chief executive.

Airtours dipped 5p to 971½p after profit-taking. A reduction in capacity last summer helped the holiday group to reduce first-quarter losses by one third to £12.1 million.

London Forfaiting, the finance group, leapt 30½p tp 388p after better than expected results prompted analysts to upgrade forecasts. Pre-tax profits for 1996 jumped 40 per cent to £37.95 million.

Shares in **Scottish & Newcastle** fell back to 669p, down 6p, after the DTI ruling that will allow Inntrepreneur, the pub group, to buy beer from suppliers other then S&N. **Bass** added 9p to 866p while **Grand Metropolitan**, part owner of the pub group, was unchanged at 459½p.

The launch of the **J Sainsbury** new banking service failed to excite much interest with shares just edging ahead by ½p to 316p, while **Tesco** added 3½p to 347½p.

The £54 million acquisition by **FirstBus** of fellow operator CentreWest lifted its shares 5½p tp 240p, while lower profits from **Porvair**, chemicals group, knocked its shares 20p lower to 250p.

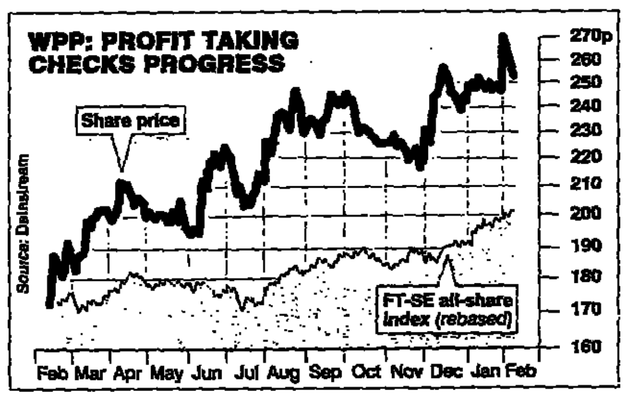
Centrica the retail arm of British Gas saw a late flurry of activity with more than 33 million shares changing hands. The shares after treading water for most of the day then added 3p to 66½p, while **BG**, the exploration and distribution business also moved up adding 2½p to 178½p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Retail sales figures for January failed *to check morning trading in the gilts market. Prices however drifted lower in line with European markets during the afternoon. At the close, the gilt future was down* £$^{9}/_{32}$ at £113$^{9}/_{32}$. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 ended £$^{2}/_{32}$ lower at £104$^{7}/_{32}$ while 8 per cent 2015 slid £$^{12}/_{32}$ to £106$^{29}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Favourable January inflation figures failed to ignite a rally in the bond market and in shares the banking sector came in for some profit-taking. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 7.69 points lower at 7,059.77.

Whispers of takeover talk sent shares in Yorkshire Television scurrying ahead to notch up a 55p gain to 1,152½p. TV and film group Winchester Multimedia was also in demand. The AIM-quoted stock added 7½p to a new high of 70p after selling programmes to the US.

WPP: PROFIT TAKING CHECKS PROGRESS



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	7059.77 (-7.69)
S&P Composite	815.62 (-0.67)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18599.12 (+128.37)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	13106.32 (+3.38)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	738.23 (+2.81)
Sydney:	
AO	2491.0 (-10.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	3233.75 (-42.41)
Singapore:	
Straits	2246.99 (+17.20)
Brussels:	
General	11730.29 (-14.21)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2594.76 (-22.76)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	n/a
London:	
FT 30	2872.0 (+28.7)
FT 100	4357.4 (+25.1)
FTSE Mid 250	4620.4 (+7.7)
FTSE 350	2149.8 (+10.5)
FTSE Eurotrack 100	2160.24 (-12.63)
FT All-Share	2121.75 (+9.79)
FT Non Financials	2164.71 (+12.08)
FT Fixed Interest	120.15 (-0.03)
FT Govt Secs	96.62 (-0.12)
Bargains	48078
SEAQ Volume	930.3m
US$	1.6120 (+0.0103)
German Mark	2.7306 (+0.0221)
Exchange Index	97.6 (+0.8)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4079
£:SDR	1.1677
RPI	154.4 Jan (2.8%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	153.9 Jan (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

C&B Publishing	175	...
Calidore Group	3¼	...
Calidore Warrants	1¼	...
Centrica (75½)	66½	+ 3
GB Railways	193½	+ 1
Infobank Intl	144	...
John Lewis	4	...
Prelude Tst	118½	...
Prelude Warrants	41½	...
Tea Plantations Inv	102	...
Tea Plantations Wts	30½	...
Technoplast	122½	- 3½
Zicor Mining	24½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Finelist Gp n/p (320)	44½	- 1

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Royal Bank Scot	629p (+13p)
Bass	866p (+9p)
Irish Cont	550p (+25p)
Bilton	257½p (+14p)
Smithkline	914p (+46½p)
Brake Bros	462½p (+21p)
JJB Sports	378½p (+17p)
Clyde Blowers	3498p (+13p)
Liberty Intl	463p (+16p)
Vodafone	299p (+10p)
Scot TV	616p (+13½p)
Capita Group	631p (+11p)
BTG	516p (+8½p)
Reuters	666½p (+11p)
Guinness	447p (+7p)
Christies Intl	297½p (+7p)
Securicor	317½p (+5p)
Peptide Thera	345p (+10p)
Imperial Tobacco	430p (+10½p)
Smith WH	463p (+9½p)
AEA Tech	482p (+9½p)
Tate & Lyle	451½p (+8p)
FALLS:	
Porvair	250p (-20p)
Telspec	222½p (-20p)
Estates Agency	360p (-30p)
WPP	252p (-15p)
Volex	440p (-10p)
Broken Hill	840p (-17¾p)
Boosey Hawks	790p (-12½p)

Closing Prices Page 33

TEMPUS

A fistful of sand

FILLING your boots with sand, gravel and cement sounds like a counsel of despair, but it could just be good investment advice. Over the past year, the building materials sector has drifted downwards. The lighter end, including Caradon, the sink maker, has done well as *investors anticipate the housing market pick-up.* But the laggards include Tarmac, *Bardon* and Camas; aggregates producers have dredged the bottom of the sector because of gloom about road-building.

However, there are *signs of change in the* fortunes of heavy-end materials producers and the process could start with cement price increases. Blue Circle is expected to ask in the spring for an 8 per cent price increase for bulk cement; while the full amount may not stick, the omens look good and the knock-on effect of higher prices should flow through to concrete and aggregates. The latter commodity has suffered; the recession caused a scramble for volume as businesses pursued cash to keep solvent. The result was a price collapse, with quarry owners selling resources below cost.

That cannot continue, not least because there is little prospect of new quarries obtaining planning permission. The recession and anticipation of a shortage of reserves has led to a scramble for assets, such as RMC's takeover of Hargreaves and Minorco's purchase of Tilcon for an 80 per cent premium to net assets. Materials producers have learnt their lesson from the recession; production is *running* at about 85 per cent of capacity, but after a spate of deals and asset swaps there is no reason to chase volume. Complaints from *building* contractors about prices only *confirm* that the bad times are over.

Celsis

OBSESSIVE concern with health, rumours of great plagues and food contamination scares should be music to the ears of Celsis International. Unfortunately, public hypochondria has done little to improve the performance of Celsis, which makes diagnostic systems that identify microbial contamination. Known as bioluminescence, it uses the enzyme that causes fireflies to glow in order to test for microorganisms in food, and toiletries.

The system takes only 24 hours, compared with a week for conventional tests. Celsis makes the agents that sell for about £1.20 each and the company reckons there is demand for billions.

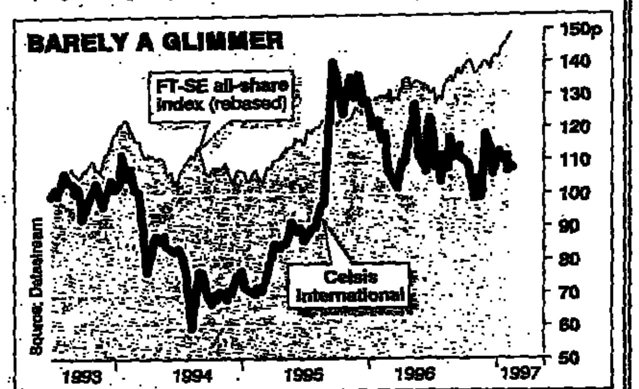
But Celsis has yet to produce a profit and its shares, floated at 100p in 1993, were trading yesterday at 106p.

What has gone wrong? The product works and sales of £11 million are expected this year, with profits in 1998, but the slow progress merely reflects the marketing problems that plague diagnostic as opposed to biotech companies.

*Penicillin is more sexy than a sewage system, even though the latter has proba*bly saved more lives. Likewise, miracle cancer cures (no matter how dubious) achieve better share ratings than kits that screen for contamination. Moreover, Celsis is selling its product to cost-conscious and conservative manufacturers, not doctors with tearful patients.

Celsis will have its day but do not expect fireworks.

BARELY A GLIMMER



CALPers

HERMES, Standard Life and the Prudential may sound off about corporate governance, but their efforts look timid compared to CALPers, the large and pugnacious Californian state pension fund. By ordering Reebok to get its skates on, and by telling Apple and Novell that they are no longer PC, they have signalled to the US investment industry that these companies have failed to deliver.

Every year CALPers an*nounces its top ten list and it is not a club anyone aspires to join. Members are deemed to be underperforming and have incurred the wrath of* CALPers, which *then dispatches missives on their performance and votes against the directors at shareholder meetings.*

Compared with such public humiliation, the "behind the scenes" pressure preferred by British institutions looks feeble, a gentle chiding that directors can safely ignore. CALPers argues that by pointing the finger, it makes companies perform, claiming that once they are targeted, the stock price grows ahead of the S&P 500 index. The lash of CALPers does not always work: three of last year's targets — Stride Rite, Bassett Furniture and Rollins Environmental Services — are included in this year's list.

Porvair

PORVAIR is confident that the slow puncture in its business can quickly be repaired. After six years of solid growth, the manufacturer of football skins and waterproofing materials is writing off 1996 as a blip.

Profits are expected to bounce back this year. However, given the amount of bad news it has doled out recently, there are still plenty of reasons to be sceptical. Its newfound exposure to the aluminium sector, via an acquisition of a metals filter producer, has delivered an unwelcome presence in a market yet to show any convincing signs of recovery.

Its debt pile is also worrying. At £6.8 million, the interest on its borrowings will combine with higher tax charges to hold back any growth planned for this year. Yet it is still spending some £4 million to pump up its American operations, currently enjoying an upturn that may not last forever.

While things can only get better for Porvair, the question is how much can they improve. True, its fundamental attractions remain: its microporous technology has applications in a range of growing markets.

At 250p the company is trading on a ratio of 14 times, *which puts it on a par with the sector. Until there are more solid signs of recovery, this is a generous rating for what is still a recovery stock.*

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	852-851	May	970-969
May	879-878	Jul	985-983
Jul	898-897	Sep	999-997
Sep	918-916	Dec	1016-1000
Dec	934-933		
Mar	955-954		Volume: 2616

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	1485-1480	Nov	1525-1515
May	1505-1500	Jan	unq
Jul	1530-1525	Mar	—
Sep	1525 BID		Volume: 8206

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	302.4-01.0
Spot n/a		Mar	303.0-99.0
May	307.5-07.2	May	304.2-03.0
Aug	*307.0-06.5*	*Jun*	*unq*
Oct	303.0-02.5		Volume: 1408

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 18

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	79.04	141.84	101.80
(+/-)	+1.39	+0.09	+0.38
Eng/Wales:	80.62	143.26	100.67
(+/-)	+2.35	-0.02	+0.66
(%)	-6.0	-11.0	-3.0
Scotland:	68.25	137.56	105.24
(+/-)	-2.51	-0.03	-1.17
(%)	+53.0	-20.0	+13.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	21.00	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Apr)	20.60	+0.20
Brent 15 day (May)	*20.25*	*+0.15*
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	22.20	+0.15
W Texas Intermediate (May)	21.85	+0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	210 (+1)	212 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	*179 (+1)*	*180 (+1)*
3.5 Fuel Oil	97 (n/c)	99 (n/c)
Naphtha	216 (-4)	218 (-7)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	176.00-76.25	Jun	176.00-76.25
Apr	176.00-76.25	Jul	176.00-77.00
May	175.75-76.00		Vol: 9052

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	20.60-20.64	Jul	19.71-19.83
May	20.25-20.30	Aug	n/a
Jun	19.97-20.01		Vol: 15894

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)

Mar	93.65
May	96.70
Jul	98.60
Sep	92.00
Nov	94.60
Volume: 471	

LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)

Mar	92.00
May	93.00
Sep	91.00
Nov	93.00
Jan	95.00
Volume: 51	

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	57.5
Apr	63.5	62.6
May	unq	70.5
		Volume: 72

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

Feb 80.50-81.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 97	1465	1460	1465
Mar 97	1535	1525	1535
Apr 97	1540	1525	1540
Jul 97	1265	1240	1265

Vol: 175 lots *Open interest: 3149*

Index 1468 +1

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2418.0-2420.0	2345.0-2346.0	1371900
Lead ($/tonne)	654.00-655.00	663.00-663.50	299175
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1201.0-1202.0	1224.0-1224.5	768425
Tin ($/tonne)	6020.0-6021.0	6060.0-6062.0	42090
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	*1575.0-1576.0*	*1607.0-1607.5*	*1780325*
Nickel ($/tonne)	7695.0-7705.0	7790.0-7795.0	91266

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	420	28	30½	42	8½	18	22½
(*436)	460	8½	17	23½	29½	40	45
ASDA	110	9½	12½	14	2½	4	6
(*116½)	120	4	7	9	7	8	10½
Boots	650	46½	58½	63	6½	16½	21½
(*685½)	700	15½	29	36	26	39½	45½
Br Airways	600	33½	46	57½	10½	22½	28
(*618)	650	10½	22½	34½	37	50	55½
BP	650	47½	61	69	10	21½	25½
(*683)	700	20	34½	44	31½	41	49
Br Steel	140	8	12	13	4½	10	11½
(*143)	160	1½	4½	6	17½	24½	25½
C & W	500	29½	43½	56	14	25	34½
(*512½)	550	9	21	34	42	52½	62½
CU	700	32½	51	62	26	40	54
(*718)	750	12	31	41	58½	69½	83½
ICI	750	22½	38½	47	24	34	46½
(*762)	800	7	19	27	62	67½	77½
Land Sec	750	44	54½	60½	5½	19½	23½
(*781½)	800	14½	24	33½	26½	45	49½
M & S	460	37½	44	50½	5	10	13
(*488)	500	13	20	30	19½	28	31½
Nat West	800	24	46	57	36	50½	63½
(*804)	850	9	27	38	72½	83	94½
Safeway plc	360	17½	25	33½	11	21½	25
(*363)	390	6	12½	19½	29	40½	43½
Sainsbury	300	24	29	34½	5½	12	14
(*316)	330	8½	13½	20	19	28	30½
Shell	1050	52½	64	75½	25½	38½	46½
(*1077½)	1100	26½	38½	51	54	65	73½
SmKl Bch	900	61½	79½	98	21½	34	43
(*934½)	950	34	52½	71	44	57½	65½
Storehse	300	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trafalgar	50	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	60	0	—	—	0	—	—
Zeneca	1700	127	168	197	30	53	68
(*1799)	1800	67½	116½	142½	71½	96½	113
	Series	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
BAT Ind	500	52	60	68½	11½	21½	30
(*546½)	550	19	35	43½	35	45	55½
Vodafone	280	27½	36	41½	5½	12½	16
(*298½)	300	15½	25	31½	13½	21½	25½
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Grnd Met	420	39½	50	57	0	4½	9
(*459½)	460	0	23	31½	0½	17	23½
Ladbroke	220	15½	19	25	0	5	8
(*235½)	240	0	8½	14½	4½	14½	17½
Utd Bisc	220	18	23	27½	0	6½	9½
(*238)	240	0	11½	17½	2	16	19½

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	500	38	48½	53	4½	12½	16
(*528½)	550	10	21	27	26½	36	40
Thames W	650	40	57½	60½	14½	36	37½
(*672½)	700	17	33½	38½	38½	64	65½
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
BTR	240	2	13½	19	0	12½	17
(*242)	260	0	7	11	18	26	29½
Br Aero	1200	31½	72	100½	0	31	42½
(*1231½)	1250	0	46	73½	18½	55	66
Br Telcm	420	18	31½	39½	0	8½	19
(*438)	460	0	11	19½	22	28½	42½
Cadbury	460	29½	35	42½	0	9	14
(*489½)	500	0	14½	22	10½	29½	34½
Guinness	420	27	34½	40	0	9	15
(*447)	460	0	11½	20½	13	30	36
GEC	360	16	29	34	0	7	14
(*376)	390	0	13	17½	14	21	29½
Hanson	119	13½	—	—	0	—	—
(*132½)	136	0	—	—	5	—	—
LASMO	220	17½	25	32½	0	5½	7½
(*237½)	240	0	14½	22	2½	13½	15½
LucasVarity	180	15	20½	25½	0	5½	8½
(*195)	200	0	9½	15	5	14	15½
Pilkngtn	130	2	9½	13	0	5	8
(*132)	140	0	5	7½	8	10½	13½
Prudential	550	9	29½	42	0	24	31½
(*559)	600	0	10	21	41	56	62
Redland	330	20	33	38	0	13	17
(*350)	360	0	16½	23½	10	29	33
R-Royce	220	5	18	25	0	11	16
(*225)	240	0	9	16	15	22	27½
Tesco	330	16½	20½	32	0	10	14
(*346½)	360	0	11	17½	13½	26	29½
Williams	330	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	360	—	—	—	—	—	—

FTSE INDEX (*4357.4)

	4250	4300	4350	4400	4450	4500
Calls						
Feb	106½	58	16	1	1	1
Mar	123	87	57	33½	17	7½
Apr	146½	115	84½	60½	41	24½
May	174	141	108½	84	60	44
Jun	—	167	—	111	—	66½
Puts						
Feb	1	4	13	54	104	154
Mar	31½	40	67	94	128	160
Apr	58	76½	96½	123½	154	180
May	76½	93½	111½	137	164	198½
Jun	—	112½	—	156	—	211½

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Abby Nat	800	23½	44½	57½	35	47½	56
(*801½)	850	8	25½	37½	71½	80	86½
Amstrad	140	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	160	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barclays	1100	33	63½	77½	38½	55½	69
(*1109)	1150	16	42½	57	72	85½	98½
Natl Pwr	450	54½	—	—	5	—	—
(*499)	500	20½	30½	36	19½	35½	39
	Series	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo W	1000	61½	79½	94	23½	36	48
(*1044½)	1050	32	53	67½	46½	60	72
HSBC	1500	81	124½	150	42	68	91½
(*1553½)	1600	33	77	103	97½	121½	144
Reuter	650	36	53½	64	22	31½	37½
(*666½)	700	14	31½	41	50½	59½	60
Royal & Sun	500	18½	29½	39	24	32	37
(*503)	550	3½	13	20½	62½	66½	70
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Blue Circ	360	26½	36	41	0	9½	13
(*386½)	390	0	17	24	1½	22	26½
	Series	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**	**Feb**	**May**	**Aug**
Kingfishr	650	9½	33	45	0	25½	34
(*659½)	700	0	12	25½	40½	58	63
	Series	**Mar**	**Jun**		**Mar**	**Jun**	
Br Gas	240	9½	17	—	6½	15½	—
(*242)	260	2½	8½	—	20	28½	—
	Series	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Dixons	500	29	40½	54½	6	16½	29
(*520½)	550	6	22	30½	32½	42½	52
EMI Group	1200	59	97½	121	12½	34	55
(*1245½)	1250	30	73½	95	32½	55	74
Tarmac	90	10	12	14	0½	3½	3½
(*98½)	100	4	6	9	4	8	8½
Hillsdown	180	11½	15	17	1	7	8
(*190)	200	1	5	7½	11	19½	20
Lonrho	130	11½	15½	17½	1½	4½	6½
(*139½)	140	5	9½	11½	5½	8½	11
Sears	90	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorn EMI	1500	—	—	—	—	—	—
(unq)	1600	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tomkins	280	12	21½	26	4	10½	16½
(*286½)	300	3½	12	16½	15½	21	27
Lloyds TSB	500	32	45½	57½	2	16½	24
(*531)	550	5	21½	34	32½	42½	49½
Scot Pwr	325	30	—	—	1	—	—
(*350½)	350	7½	—	—	9	—	—
Unilever	1500	103½	123	144½	3½	25	36½
(*1591½)	1600	31½	62	89	31½	66½	78½

February 19, 1997 Tot: 54048 Call: 26932 Put: 27116 FTSE Call: 6088 Put: 9946

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 211788	Mar 97	113-16	113-25	113-03	113-09	78491
	Jun 97	112-30	113-08	112-29	112-25	4554
German Govt Bond (Bund) Previous open interest: 272364	Mar 97	103.70	103.86	103.36	103.49	234182
	Jun 97	102.81	103.02	102.63	102.66	19501
Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest: 138247	Mar 97	129.35	130.15	129.30	129.67	87116
	Jun 97	128.90	129.40	128.90	129.01	5623
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Mar 97	126.40	126.49	126.34	126.40	3874
	Jun 97	124.90	125.07	124.95	125.02	1995
Three Mth Sterling	Mar 97	93.73	93.75	93.71	93.74	9095
	Jun 97	93.54	93.60	93.52	93.56	25499
Previous open interest: 508392	Sep 97	93.36	93.43	93.34	93.38	25774
Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest: 1196541	Mar 97	96.86	96.86	96.83	96.83	14107
	Apr 97	96.89	96.89	96.87	96.85	565
Three Mth Eurolira Previous open interest: 289655	Mar 97	92.75	92.82	92.73	92.79	16309
	Jun 97	93.26	93.36	93.24	93.31	23854
Three Mth Euroyen	Jun 97				99.44	0
	Sep 97	99.38	99.38	99.38	99.38	2000
Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open interest: 94900	Mar 97	98.27	98.27	98.24	98.24	2599
	Jun 97	98.32	98.35	98.29	98.30	4011
Three Mth ECU Previous open interest: 34746	Mar 97	95.89	95.91	95.89	95.89	543
	Jun 97	95.94	95.97	95.94	95.94	921
FTSE 100 Previous open interest: 67006	Mar 97	4345.0	4347.0	4326.0	4341.0	12706
	Jun 97	4354.0	4358.0	4354.0	4362.0	419

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6 Finance Hse [illegible]

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: [illegible] *Low* [illegible] *Week fixed: 6*

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Overnight: open [illegible], close 6.					
Local Authority Deps:	6	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.29	n/a	5.35	5.42	5.64
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	2-1
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $345.80-346.10 Close: $346.30-346.80 High: $346.50-347.00

Low: $344.65-345.05 AM: $346.10 PM: $346.25

Krugerrand: $346.00-348.00 (£214.00-216.00)

Platinum: $366.75 (£227.25) Silver: $5.20 (£3.22) Palladium: $134.50 (£83.25)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Feb 19	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.0553-3.0737	3.0654-3.0678	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brussels	56.150-56.530	56.347-56.381	15-10pr	45-38pr
Copenhagen	10.380-10.446	10.417-10.424	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dublin	1.0245-1.0285	1.0256-1.0267	6-1pr	15-9pr
Frankfurt	2.7212-2.7321	2.7302-2.7321	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lisbon	273.55-275.35	274.60-274.85	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madrid	230.84-232.00	231.53-231.68	2-8ds	1-17ds
Milan	2708.1-2726.6	2717.8-2719.4	23-39ds	69-91ds
Montreal	2.1854-2.1920	2.1854-2.1869	0.54-0.49pr	1.15-1.07pr
New York	1.6120-1.6172	1.6120-1.6125	0.105-0.085pr	0.315-0.285pr
Oslo	10.854-10.933	10.854-10.860	[illegible]	[illegible]
Paris	9.1890-9.2480	9.2253-9.2311	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	11.987-12.047	12.010-12.023	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	199.64-200.36	199.96-200.11	[illegible]	[illegible]
Vienna	19.143-19.265	19.214-19.228	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	2.3671-2.3928	2.3904-2.3928	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3034-1.3042
Austria	11.90-11.91
Belgium (Com)	34.89-34.90
Canada	1.3554-1.3559
Denmark	6.4565-6.4585
France	5.7182-5.7192
Germany	1.6921-1.6926
Hong Kong	7.7465-7.7475
Ireland	1.5696-1.5746
Italy	1685.35-1688.35
Japan	123.89-123.94
Malaysia	2.4878-2.4888
Netherlands	1.9001-1.9006
Norway	6.7375-6.7447
Portugal	170.18-170.28
Singapore	1.4260-1.4270
Spain	143.57-143.62
Sweden	7.4519-7.4569
Switzerland	1.4805-1.4815

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6133-1.6160
Australia dollar	2.1017-2.1044
Bahrain dinar	0.6000-0.6120
Brazil real*	1.6918-1.6962
China yuan	13.278-13.478
Cyprus pound	0.8115-0.8215
Finland markka	8.0075-8.1235
Greece drachma	422.25-429.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.4936-12.5029
India rupee	57.27-58.23
Indonesia rupiah	3808.0-3876.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4830-0.4930
Malaysia ringgit	4.0123-4.0164
New Zealand dollar	2.3381-2.3412
Pakistan rupee	63.95 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7925-5.9165
Singapore dollar	2.2999-2.3029
S Africa rand (com)	7.1800-7.2820
U A E dirham	5.8425-5.9665

Barclays Bank GTS Lloyds Bank*

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	392	Lloyds TSB	9,300
ASDA Gp	14,200	LucasVarity	2,500
Abbey Ntl	3,200	*Marks Spr*	6,800
Allied Dom	5,100	Mercury Asset	432
Argos	565	NatWst Bk	6,900
AB Foods	628	Nat Grid	2,500
BAA	927	Nat Power	3,000
BAT Inds	22,000	Next	1,400
BG	13,700	Orange	2,700
BOC	1,200	P & O	766
BP	11,100	Pearson	523
BSkyB	1,200	*PowerGen*	957
BTR	5,600	Prudential	8,000
BT	7,400	RMC	669
Bk of Scot	4,200	RTZ	2,900
Barclays	13,400	Railtrack	1,600
Bass	3,500	Rank Group	3,300
Blue Circle	3,800	*Reckitt Col*	665
Boots	1,700	Redland	3,400
BAe	2,500	Reed Intl	2,700
BA	934	Rentokil Intl	3,200
Brit Steel	8,000	Reuters	6,200
Burmah Cstl	547	Rolls Royce	6,000
Burton	4,900	Royal & Sun	5,500
Cable Wire	4,500	Royal Bk Sct	4,300
Cadbury	3,400	*Safeway*	5,800
Carlton Cms	3,000	Sainsbury	2,100
Cm Union	2,600	Schroders	133
Dixons	1,000	Scot & New	1,000
EMI	972	Scot Power	1,900
Enterpr Oil	2,100	Svrn Trent	1,300
GKN	1,000	Shell Trans	3,000
GRE	2,400	Siebe	1,200
GUS	5,100	SmKl Bch	3,700
Gen Acc	2,700	*Smith Nph*	2,000
Gen Elec	5,300	Smiths Inds	538
Glaxo Well	9,700	Std Chartd	3,500
Granada	3,600	*TI Gp*	1,500
Grand Met	3,800	Tate & Lyle	976
Guinness	4,500	Tesco	6,600
HSBC	4,200	Thames W	1,100
Hanson	17,100	Tomkins	4,600
Hays	573	Unilever	3,900
ICI	1,800	Utd Utilities	890
Imp Tob	5,300	Utd News	4,300
Kingfisher	443	Vodafone	12,500
LASMO	1,900	Whitbread	1,100
Ladbroke	5,400	Wlms Hld	6,300
Land Secs	2,100	Wolseley	195
Legal & Gn	3,200	Zeneca	1,800

WALL STREET

	Feb 19 midday	Feb 18 close
AMP Inc	39	39
AMR Corp	82	82
ASA	36	38
AT & T	40	40
Abbott Labs	59	59
Advanced Micro	35	34
Aetna Life	85	84
Ahmanson (HF)	43	44
Air Prod & Chem	74	74
AirTouch Comm	28	28
Alberto-Culver B	56	55
Albertson's	35	35
Alcan Alumnm	35	35
Allied Signal	74	74
Alum Co of Am	70	70
Amax Gold Inc	7	7
Amerada Hess	56	57
Amer Brands	52	53
Amer El Power	41	42
Amer Express	68	69
Amer Genl Corp	43	43
Amer Home Pr	67	67
Amer Intl	125	126
Amer Stores	44	44
Amer Standard	45	45
Ameritech	63	64
Amoco	87	87
Anheuser-Busch	44	44
Apple Computer	17	17
Archer Daniels	18	19
Armco	4	4
Armstrong Wrld	68	68
Asarco	30	29
Atl Richfield	128	128
Auto Data Pro	42	43
Avery Dennison	39	40
Avon Products	62	62
Baker Hughes	36	36
Baltim Gas & El	27	27
Banc One	46	46
BankAmerica	121	122
Bank of NY	40	41
Bankers Tr NY	94	94
Barnett Banks	49	49
Bausch & Lomb	37	37
Baxter Intl	37	47
Bectn Dickinsn	50	50
Bell Atlantic	70	70
Bell Industries	23	23
BellSouth	46	46
Black & Decker	33	33
Block (H&R)	29	30
Boeing	110	109
Boise Cascade	33	34
Bristol Myrs Sq	136	135
Browning Ferris	32	32
Brunswick	28	28
Burlington Nthn	85	87
CMS Energy Corp	33	33
CNA Financial	109	109
CPC Intl	79	80
CSX	47	47
Campbell Soup	88	87
Can Pacific	26	26
Carolina Pwr	37	37
Caterpillar	80	79
Central & SW	24	25
Champion Intl	42	42
Chase Manhat	102	101
Chevron Corp	67	68
Chrysler	34	35
Chubb Corp	57	58
Cigna Corp	160	161
Citicorp	124	125
Clorox	126	127
Coastal Corp	48	48
Coca Cola	61	61
Coca Cola Ent	60	61
Colgate-Palm	105	107
Columbia Gas	63	63
ColumbiaHCA	44	44
Compaq Comp	84	83
Comp Ass Intl	48	48
Conagra	53	53
Conrail	104	105
Cons Edison	31	31
Cons Nat Gas	53	53
Cooper Inds	45	44
Corestates	53	55
Corning Inc	37	38
Crown Cork	57	58
Dana Corp	31	31
Dayton Hudson	39	39
Deere	42	42
Delta Air Lines	83	84
Deluxe Corp	32	31
Digital Equip	34	33
Dillard Dept St	29	28
Disney (Walt)	77	77
Dominion Res	40	40
Donnelley (RR)	31	31
Dover Corp	51	52
Dow Chemical	80	80
Dow Jones	40	40
Dresser	31	31
Duke Power	45	45
Dun & Bradstreet	24	24
Du Pont	108	109
Eastman Chem	55	55
Eastman Kodak	94	94
Eaton Corp	73	73
Edison Intl	22	22
Elect Data Sys	47	46
Emerson Elec	103	105
Engelhard Corp	21	22
Enron Corp	41	42
Entergy	26	26
Ethyl Corp	9	9
Exxon	104	104
FMC Corp	71	72
FPL Group	45	46
Federal Express	52	52
First Bk Sys	82	82
First Union Rlty	13	13
Fleet Fnl Grp	59	59
Fluor Corp	66	[illegible]
Ford Motor	33	33
GTE Corp	48	49
Gannett	83	83
Gap Inc Del	33	33
Gencorp	19	19
Gen Dynamics	70	70
Gen Electric	107	107
Gen Mills	66	67
Gen Motors	58	59
Gen Reinsurance	175	175
Gen Signal	46	46
Genuine Parts	45	45
Georgia Pac	74	76
Gillette	85	86
Glaxo Welle ADR	33	33
Goodrich (BF)	43	43
Goodyear Tire	53	54
Grt Atl Pac Tea	31	32
Great Wstn Fin	44	44
Halliburton	68	68
Harcourt General	49	49
Heinz (HJ)	41	41
Hercules	47	47
Hershey Foods	44	44
Hewlett Packard	55	[illegible]
Hilton Hotels	26	26
Home Depot	51	51
Homestake Mng	15	15
Honeywell	75	75
Household Intl	102	102
Houston Inds	22	22
Humana	19	20
ITT Corp	58	58
Ikon Office	46	45
Illinois Tool	87	87
Illinova	25	25
INCO	35	35
Ingersoll Rand	48	48
Inland Steel	18	18
Intel Corp	154	154
IBM	144	145
Intl Flav & Fr	45	46
Intl Paper	42	43
James River Va	30	30
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	62	62
Kellogg	70	70
Kerr-McGee	64	65
Kimberly-Clark	101	102
Kmart	10	11
Knight-Ridder	39	40
Lilly (Eli)	93	92
Limited Inc	17	17
Lincoln Nat	58	59
Litton	44	43
Liz Claiborne	42	41
Lockheed Martin	90	89
Louisiana Pac	20	20
MCI Comm	36	36
Manpower Inc	35	35
Marriott Int	56	56
Marsh & McLnn	121	121
Masco Corp	36	36
May Dept St	46	47
Maytag Corp	21	22
McDonalds	46	46
McDonnell D	69	68
McGraw Hill	51	51
Mead Corp	57	57
Medtronic	67	71
Mellon Bk	82	84
Merck Inc	99	99
Merrill Lynch	100	101
Microsoft	96	97
Minnesota Mine	85	85
Mobil Corp	131	131
Monsanto	38	38
Morgan (JP)	108	109
Motorola Inc	62	62
Natl Semi	25	25
Natl Service Ind	38	39
Navistar Int	9	9
NY Times A	43	43
Newmont Mng	45	44
Niag Mohawk	10	10
Nike B	75	75
NL Industries	11	12
Noram Energy	15	15
Nordstrom	36	36
Norfolk Sthrn	88	89
Nthn State Pwr	47	47
Norwest Corp	51	51
Nynex Corp	52	52
Occidental Pet	25	25
Ohio Edison	22	23
Oracle	41	40
Oryx Energy Co	21	20
Overseas Ship	18	18
Owens Corning	44	44
PHH Corp	48	48
PPG Industries	55	55
PNC Bank	43	43
PP&L Res	22	23
Paccar Inc	68	68
Pacificorp	20	20
Pac Enterprises	31	31
Pac Telesis	40	40
Pall Corp	23	24
Parker Hannifin	44	44
Peco Energy	22	22
Penney (JC)	48	48
Pennzoil	61	61
Pepsico	32	32
Pfizer	98	98
Pharm & Upjhn	37	38
Phelps Dodge	72	72
Philip Morris	130	131
Phillips Pet	43	43
Pitney Bowes	62	63
Polaroid	43	44
Procter & Gmbl	128	129
Providian	55	55
Pub Serv E & G	27	27
Quaker Oats	34	34
Ralston Purina	83	83
Raychem Corp	86	85
Raytheon	47	47
Reebok Intl	51	51
Reynolds Metals	63	62
Rockwell Intl	69	68
Rohm & Haas	88	88
Royal Dutch	178	182
Rubbermaid	24	24
SBC Comms	56	57
Safeco Corp	41	41
St Paul's Cos	71	70
Salomon Inc	60	60
Sara Lee Corp	39	39
Schering Plough	80	80
Schlumberger	105	105
Seagram	40	41
Sears Roebuck	54	54
Shell Trans	104	105
Sherwin Wlms	57	58
Skyline Corp	24	24
Snap-On-Tools	40	40
Southern Co	22	22
Sprint Corp	44	44
Stanley Works	37	37
Sun Company	27	28
Sun Microsys	34	33
Suntrust	53	54
Supervalu	32	32
Sysco Corp	34	35
TRW Inc	52	52
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	13	13
Tandy Corp	47	48
Temple Inland	56	56
Tenneco	40	40
Texaco	102	102
Texas Inst	82	80
Texas Utilities	40	40
Textron	102	103
Time Warner	42	42
Times-Mirror A	52	52
Timken	53	53
Torchmark	55	55
Toys R Us	28	28
Transamerica	88	89
Travelers	57	58
Tribune	42	41
Tyco Int	57	57
UST Inc	31	31
UAL	59	58
US Inds	35	35
US West Comm	34	34
US West Media	20	19
USX Marathon	27	27
Unicom	23	23
Unilever NV	199	192
Union Camp	48	49
Union Carbide	47	46
Union Pacific	60	60
Unisys Corp	6	7
USAIR Group	20	20
USF&G Corp	22	22
US Life	48	47
United Tech	76	76
Unocal Corp	40	41
VF Corp	70	70
WMX Tech	34	34
Wal-Mart Stores	24	24
Warner-Lambert	84	84
Wells Fargo	313	316
Westinghouse El	17	17
Weyerhaeuser	46	47
Whirlpool	50	50
Whitman	24	24
Winn Dixie	31	31
Woolworth	19	19
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	60	61
Xerox	57	58
Yellow Corp	16	16

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

How to stay happy and fat

KENNETH CLARKE apparently has no intentions of emulating Lord Lawson of Blaby if his sojourn in 11 Downing Street ends come election time. He takes as his model Sir Edward Heath, in more senses than one.

First, he wants to remain a politician, representing his constituents in the House of Commons for as long as they want him. Secondly, he intends, like Sir Edward, to remain a heavyweight. No Lawson wonder diet for him. Ken Clarke says that men over 50 have a choice between being happy and fat or thin and miserable and he prefers the former.

Think bank

IN THE on-going copper scandal it is Sumitomo Corporation, in which Sumitimo Bank has a tiny stake, that is covered with embarrassment over the expensive antics of Yasuo Hamanaka, its former chief copper trader currently standing trial in Japan. Both were part of the ancient House of Sumitomo until 1945, but were subsequently demerged by the Allies. As Shunichi Okuyama, Sumitomo Bank's managing director, explained yesterday: "We have never employed Yasuo Hamanaka and when you think of us think bank, bank, bank, not corporation." Got the message?

UNDETERRED by the announcement on Tuesday that four of its directors are to leave, Shandwick is going ahead with its April skindig. Richard Sermon, chairman of the City PR firm, will hold the fort at the party that promises to "Banish the Winter Blues". Chris Matthews, former chief executive, is not expected to be there.

Hands on

AFTER five years following the company, Dick Barfield has been appointed a non-executive director of Quintain Estates & Development. Having helped to set up the property company in 1992, in his former role as chief investment manager of Standard Life, the director of the London Stock Exchange has committed himself to one day a month for a princely sum of £20,000 a year.

MAX DOLDING added another medal to his collection yesterday. The James Capel analyst has been crowned Cancer Research Campaign's "Supporter of the Year". After seven marathons, he has already raised £116,000 for the campaign. On April 13, along with 19 colleagues, he will be running the London Marathon in honour of Tim Bates, a colleague who died of cancer last year.

One of the best

WELL DONE Tilney Securities. The fast-moving agency broker, based in London and Liverpool, this week added its fourth new company brokership in five days, vaulting it into the top ten of corporate brokers. VHE Holdings comes after Hunters Armley, the printer, Andrew Sykes, the engineer, and John Maunders, the builder, taking CTS through the 70 plc mark.

MORAG PRESTON

Even Europe's economic truth will not hold for ever

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Europe's Court of Human Rights yesterday permitted Britain, along with other states that signed the European Convention, to make it illegal for sadomasochists to torture each other. This was described as "landmark judgment". It seems a pragmatic one from a court that knows it cannot afford to antagonise most of the people most of the time.

As usual, the court did what the Human Rights Commission recommended. But that was a close-run thing. A minority of 7 to 11 thought the British state was illegally interfering with the chaps' human right to privacy and must stop. Another year, the minority could easily have been the majority. A crude reading of the Convention suggests their case was better-founded than the winning argument, which conveniently ruled that being tortured for "pleasure" was a public health matter.

Human rights rules are meant to override transient democratic populism. This case, like many others, merely shows that any rules written by fallible human beings will be determined by the concerns, climate and intellectual consensus of the day. They are not universally agreed, let alone true. Europe's Convention, for instance, does not uphold social "rights" in the UN declaration, including the right to work, the right to social security and the right of the family as an institution to state protection.

Postwar sages were anxious to stop their countries ever again sliding into fascist totalitarianism. They may not have envisaged upholding the right to deny that the ensuing Holocaust ever happened, let alone the nastier activities of perverts.

This human rights regime, though unconnected to the European Union, is unfortunately a paradigm for key EU institutions. They were drawn up by a liberal establishment to answer fundamental issues of the day. They are virtually immune from democratic change, to a worse extent than America's constitution. They are run by people appointed by the same establishment. Often, they are barely accountable, like state industries or quangos.

That is why Britain's debate over economic and monetary union is sterile. It is conducted in terms of economics but overshadowed by political arguments over drawing lines in the sand to stem the tide of federalism.

As Lord Alexander of Weedon noted in a recent persuasive lecture, the governing political and business classes of continental countries are determined to achieve monetary union, and achieve it on time. Were it not for the sovereignty issue, British big business would be just as keen on a single currency, enthusiasm having grown apace since sterling recovered most of its 1992 devaluation. A single currency would cut the cost of risk and make life simpler. Although the euro will reflect the average strength of its member economies, rather than the 1960s-1980s strength of the mark, long-term interest rates would carry less risk premium than on currencies with a chequered past.

If the European central bank does its job on inflation, and member economies keep to the rules on public finance, big business would not need flexible national interest and exchange rates. This is just as well. The Thatcher revolution of the 1980s, which reformed British industry via a deep, sustained, albeit unintentional slump, could no more be attempted than the Attlee government's postwar programme.

Multinationals, and most corner shops, want consensus for its own sake. For politicians, it is a useful second best. President Mitterrand started the drive for monetary union because he blamed the Bundesbank for the failure of France's socialist policies. Britain's Labour party was converted to the liberal consensus of the EU to control Thatcherism.

If change becomes so difficult, however, then the start-up detail becomes more important for business than for visionaries such as Chancellor Kohl. If Britain adopted a euro parity with sterling as strong as it is today, the economy would suffer as badly as it did in the exchange rate mechanism.

The pound is buoyed up artificially by interest rate expectations, in this case due to the state of the cycle. Having missed out the ERM phase, there is no guarantee that markets would adjust a floating pound's value in the short time between taking a decision and freezing parities. If France and Germany subsequently cut social security taxes on employers, as seems likely, they would effectively devalue against British goods. State pension dilemmas on the Continent could force interest rates up.

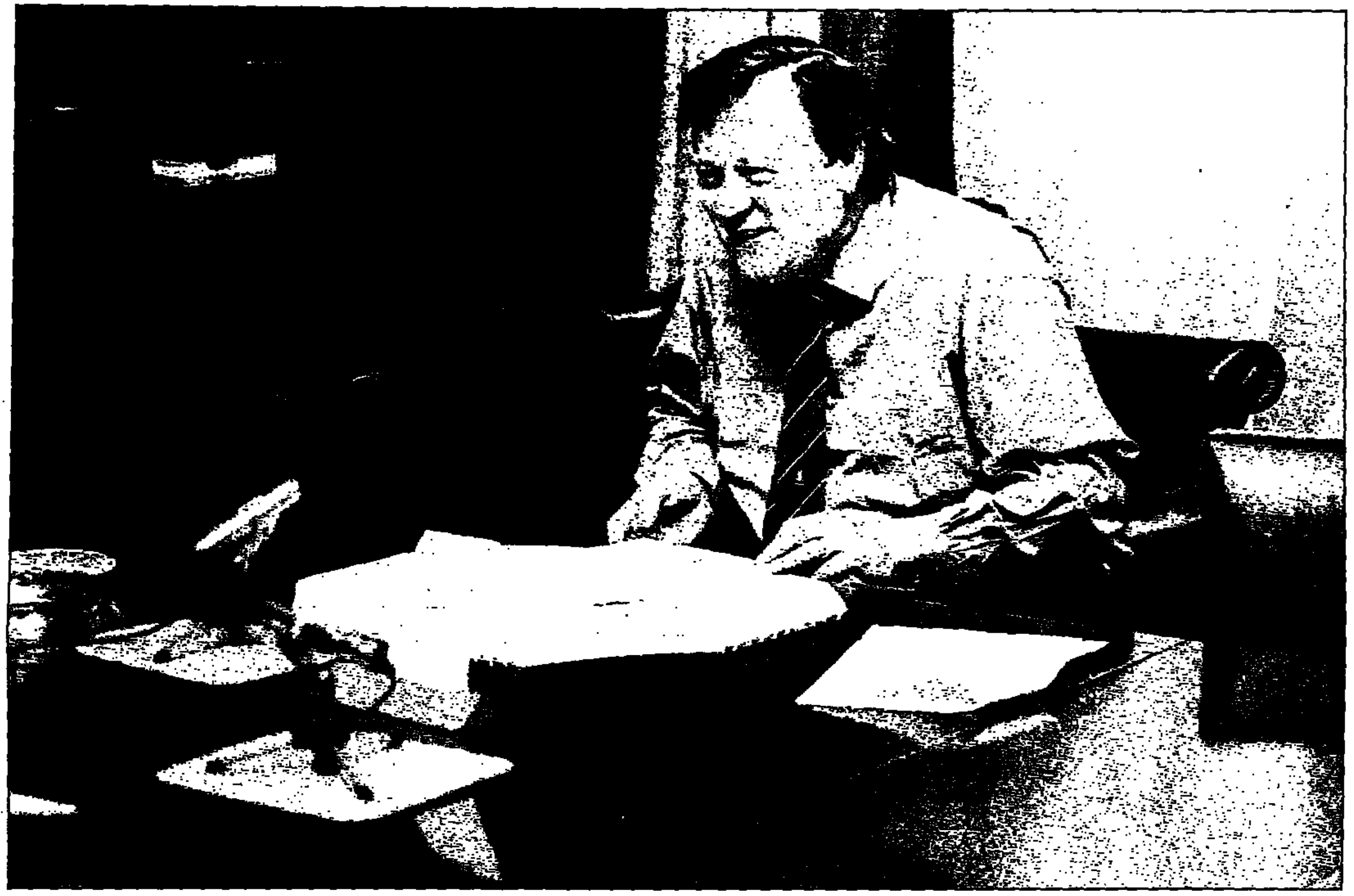
Such issues merely illustrate that the statutes of an independent, and therefore unaccountable, European central bank can no more foresee the future than the Convention on Human Rights. Sensible economic policy is even less universally and eternally true. Private enterprise and sound money have a long track record but policy techniques and needs change. The EMU regime reflects today's orthodoxy. Yet Japan, which was served well by such orthodoxy, is now urged to keep a big budget deficit to meet new conditions.

This would not matter if institutions and agendas could be changed. Sceptics assume, with good reason, that the European central bank will become as much a prisoner of its own culture as the Commission on Human Rights. As a dedicated bureaucracy, it will also accumulate powers and regulations over financial markets and public finance to reinforce its *idées fixes*. There will be no equivalent of the White House, which can reverse the agenda of the World Bank by appointing a new boss.

EMU will be another Common Agricultural Policy, impervious to changing circumstances. Until the fundamental power structures of the Union are changed, so that its institutions can be changed and powers removed as well as added, economic progess will continue to come at a huge and often unacceptable political price.

Janet Bush finds Kenneth Clarke preparing for an election scrap

Heavyweight ready to be counted out



Kenneth Clarke showed yesterday how to talk a good fight, though he inadvertently indicated that his "lightweight" shadow is landing punches

Kenneth Clarke gives every impression of being resigned to losing the election. At one point in his interview with *The Times* in his Treasury office yesterday, a "when they get in" dropped into the Chancellor's conversation about the Labour Party before he hastily corrected himself with an "if they get in". Was this another slip of the tongue under pressure, as Mr Clarke described Malcolm Rifkind's admission that the Government is hostile to the single currency on yesterday's BBC *Today* programme.

Despite Mr Clarke's inadvertent honesty about his party's electoral prospects, he still talks a good fight. He has a masterful knack of making Gordon Brown look inept, a line he clearly intends to bludgeon home when the election campaign proper gets underway. His strategy is to portray himself as the economic steward with a track record of competence, the Chancellor who has delivered a combination of low inflation and healthy growth which should be sustained for several more years. In contrast, he paints Labour as lightweight, refusing to come clean on policy detail and taking refuge in successful Conservative policies.

"They are fighting a modern American/Australian type campaign, don't have any policies, strike a series of attitudes. If the economy is doing well, get as close to the Government as you can sound on economic policy. Enter into no commitments."

Such a strategy inevitably means that it is difficult to detail the policy differences between a Clarke chancellorship and a Brown one. Where is the clear water between their policies? "Mine are clear, stated and have been pursued for four years in the teeth of bitter opposition from the Labour Party at every stage. Gordon's are an apparent pale shadow of mine at the moment, but that is only a few weeks before the election," he replies. "I am deeply suspicious of people who give ringing endorsements of parts of my policy when it's six weeks to go to polling day or ten weeks to polling day or however long it is."

Mr Clarke rejects the notion that, by adopting swathes of the Government's macroeconomic policies (such as the commitment to stick to current public spending plans for two years and the pledge not to increase personal income taxes for five years), the Labour Party has neutralised the economy as an election issue. He believes that the economy remains the biggest election issue and that there is growing disenchantment with Labour's failure to detail some of its policies, refusing to answer elementary questions on its windfall tax, failing to publicly come out with an inflation target.

"I don't think the public trust Tony Blair as much as they used to. And I don't think they trust Gordon Brown as much as they used to and I find a very ready response from non-political men and women when they say that Labour won't answer any straightforward questions about their economic policies. I agree with the general public who have these rather disturbing views and I think it is perfectly legitimate politics to emphasise those because the facts support the case against them."

The Chancellor continued to display robust scepticism about whether Mr Brown will be able to stick to the Government's current spending plans, charging that Labour's arithmetic simply doesn't add up. He notes, for example, that the Government's plans rely on substantial privatisation receipts, yet Labour is opposed to further privatisation. Labour is talking, too, of allowing local authorities to spend more of their capital receipts and this is not accounted for in current public spending plans.

But, despite being at pains to be dismissive, he appears flustered by Labour's pledge to leave income taxes unchanged for five years. This, he said, came out of the blue, was irresponsible and sheer electioneering. "I think the public are rightly wary of populist remarks. I think the key thing when you are fighting an election is firstly to set out your genuine intentions and secondly create a climate in which you are likely to be able to deliver those intentions. I don't think you should just be making policy on the hoof on particular types of tax or tax rates."

The public are wary of populist remarks. The key thing is to set out your genuine intentions

A responsible Chancellor should keep all his tax options open, Mr Clarke says, apparently not able himself to rule out raising tax rates. He refuses to give any assurances to the electorate on whether a Conservative government would, for example, abolish Miras mortgage tax relief, whittle away tax exemption on pensions or raise corporation tax.

Most frustratingly for a Chancellor who has presided over a period of relative economic success is the prospect of handing over the keys to 11 Downing Street when the outlook is, in many respects, bright. Mr Clarke admits that, if Labour wins the election, Mr Brown will find an improving fiscal situation as well as a relatively benign inflation picture.

He rejects recent warnings from the National Institute of Economic and Social Research that whichever party wins the election would have to cut spending or raise taxes by an estimated £14 billion if Britain is to erase its stubborn structural budget deficit. That view, he says, is based on a particular view of where Britain is in the economic cycle and that nobody can be sure of this. If one assumes, as Mr Clarke does, that this economic upturn is sustainable for several more years, there should be no problem in restoring the deficit to balance in the medium term.

He says Labour will face considerable problems in delivering healthy public finances and that it could "get our present prospects into serious problems quite quickly if they took over". But he is also forced to admit that the Conservatives have failed to reduce the overall tax burden since taking over in 1979. He says it has been an achievement to contain the proportion of gross domestic product taken by the State and that, although he still aims to get public spending below 40 per cent of GDP, this would be a tall order requiring "good luck and a following wind" to achieve.

On the monetary side of the policy equation, the Chancellor admits that, on current evidence, Mr Brown should face no overwhelming need to raise interest rates substantially to combat inflation. "If he came in and decided that he had to be terribly macho and start banging up interest rates, then I would probably be the loudest of his critics unless something happened between now and then which implied that there was a sudden change in prospects two years out."

For himself, Mr Clarke comes extremely close to acknowledging that he has got away with not raising interest rates before the election. "I am not raising rates because I don't have to," he says. Right up until the election and beyond? "Damn the election!" he replies cheerily.

On the biggest long-term decision facing the British economy, Mr Clarke strikes a balance between the positive potential of the single currency and its possible risks, thus continuing to tread the finest of lines necessarily imposed by the uneasy truce between different factions in his own party. But, on the day that Malcolm Rifkind delivered a robust critique of the European project in Germany, even the Conservative Party's Mr Europe was more sceptic than enthusiast.

He made it clear that creative accounting to reach the Maastricht treaty's 3 per cent limit on budget deficits or compromise on the 3 per cent figure itself would rule Britain out of the single currency. In his opinion, it is unlikely that a significant number of countries would demonstrate that they had both met the Maastricht criteria in 1997 and, importantly, proved that their convergence was sustainable, on the current timetable. For this reason, delay to the start of monetary union beyond January 1, 1999, was quite likely and, whenever the single currency went ahead, it was likely to involve only a small number of countries.

And what of life after Downing Street if his party loses the election? Mr Clarke shows no signs of incipient withdrawal symptoms. "I shall carry on being a politician," he says, breezily. "I propose to imitate Ted Heath and stick in the House of Commons for as long as my electorate in Rushcliffe can put up with me."

A shrewd mix of glitz and grit

Adam Jones on the business philosophy driving Welcome Break's new owner

The shrewdest shoppers are those who mix designer labels with more prosaic purchases — splash out on the Armani suit by all means but keep buying your underwear at Marks & Spencer. The experience of Investcorp, which this week won the bidding for the Welcome Break motorway service station chain, suggests this combination can work very profitably in investment banking.

Investcorp and its clients are former owners of such glitzy names as Gucci, the Italian fashion house, and Tiffany, the jeweller, and the current owners of Mondi, the German fashion house, and the Swiss watchmaking firms, Breguet and Ebel. They also retain a stake in Saks Fifth Avenue, the US retailer, which Investcorp floated last year. However, the Bahrain-listed bank has interspersed its glamorous investments with grittier deals, such as the purchase of Circle K, the US convenience store chain.

Record profits in 1996 and 1995 suggest the mix is working. The net profit for 1996 rose 28.6 per cent, to $90.4 million (£56.5 million). Total assets reached $1.7 billion by the end of the year; shareholders' funds were up to $516 million.

There is a common thread to Investcorp's choices, says Nemir Kirdar, the Iraqi chief executive who was forced to flee Iraq in 1958 after the bloody coup that ended the monarchy. He founded the bank in 1982 through a public listing in Bahrain that raised $50 million. Another $50 million was raised subsequently. Previous investment banking experience in the US with Chase Manhattan had shown him that every significant company reaches a stage where management or capital difficulties impede performance. Investcorp targets companies in this position, particularly those with a strong brand name, with the aim of a four to five-year turnround through management change and/or capital injection, followed by flotation and a profitable exit.

Kirdar: unconventional

Gucci is the highest-profile success so far. Riven by family infighting and an unfashionable image, Investcorp bought the final 50 per cent from Maurizio Gucci, the grandson of the founder, in 1993. Sales then almost doubled between 1994 and 1995 and Gucci was floated on the New York Stock Exchange. The offer price of $22 per share valued the company at $1.3 billion.

Mr Kirdar says Investcorp now looks at about 200 propositions a year, intensively researching ten to 15. He says: "We end up doing three or four deals a year."

The £476 million Welcome Break deal was agreed with Granada, which had to shed the chain to avoid a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Investcorp says it aims to improve quality and profitability by making an extra £50 million available. The purchase takes the total number of deals in the last 15 years to about 60.

The way the bank raises money is unconventional. Investcorp was designed to be a channel for capital from the Gulf States of the Middle East. In its purchases, the bank generally acts as principal, paying partly in cash and partly in debt from Western banks. It then syndicates the equity among clients in six Gulf countries, who have the option of buying into the deal in increments of $100,000, the typical commitment being $500,000 to $1 million or passing on the opportunity.

Investcorp does keep a portion of the equity involvement for itself. This is in keeping with the capital structure of the bank, where 37.5 per cent of shares are held by about 90 senior staff. The bank has 200 employees in Bahrain, New York and London offices. The rest of the company is owned by about 10,000 shareholders, including a core of particularly wealthy individuals in the region, known as "The Group of 50". Their holdings, however, tend to be about 0.5 per cent.

NatWest
Interest rates

NatWest announces the following changes in interest rates effective from (and including) 28th February 1997

Lending

PERSONAL LENDING	Annual Nominal Rate
Tailored Loan:	
£5,000 – £9,999	10.0%
£10,000+ (Unsecured)	9.5%
£10,000+ (Secured)	9.0%

All regulated consumer credit agreements are varied accordingly.

NatWest

National Westminster Bank Plc, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP

هكذا من الاهل

هكذا من الاصل

Premier joins Gabriel

Premier Investment, the Guildford-based fund manager, is to join the Alternative Investment Market via a £5 million reverse takeover by Gabriel Trust. Shares in Gabriel — to be renamed Premier Asset Management — were suspended yesterday as the deal was announced.

Jonathan Fry and Mike O'Shea, investment directors of Premier, are to be joint managing directors of the new company.

Gabriel Trust, which supplies equity capital to smaller companies, joined the AIM in August. Its head, David Pearl, who has built a 26.11 per cent stake in Chartfield Fund Management, stays with it.

Gabriel is making an initial cash payment of £1.5 million plus £2.5 million in guaranteed loan notes and Gabriel ordinary shares.

Pilot defence

Pilot Investment Trust has appointed Merrill Lynch International broker in its defence against a bid by Colin McLean, of Scottish Value Management. MLI advised Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) last year after investors, including Mr McLean, prompted it to ditch Kleinwort Benson as fund manager. Kepit later unitised. Sir Peter Michael, Pilot's chairman, is to leave its defence to other directors. He holds 59 per cent of Rutherford Asset Management, Pilot's manager.

Brent order

Swale Process, part of Brent International, the speciality chemicals group, has agreed a five-year, £15 million deal to supply coatings to Van Leer Metallized Products. Metallised papers are increasingly used in packaging, and Van Leer is a market leader in a version used for beer-bottle labels. Shares in Brent, which has been recovering from a fall in profits, rose 1½p, to 88½p.

Medeva poised for growth in America

BY ERIC REGULY

John Baker, Medeva chairman, left, and Bill Bogie

MEDEVA, the pharmaceuticals group, said that it was poised to expand rapidly in America now that its Rochester acquisition had been integrated into operations.

Rochester gave Medeva a portfolio of ten products and, more importantly, a distribution and sales network in the world's largest drugs market.

Bill Bogie, chief executive, said it would be used as a platform to introduce drugs that Medeva intends to buy from other companies. The company does not develop its own drugs. Dr Bogie said: "We can put anything through this network."

Medeva bought Rochester last July from Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, the Franco-American pharmaceuticals company, for $370 million. It was Medeva's largest acquisition.

To reflect its growing presence in the US, Medeva is to transfer the listing of its American depositary receipts to the New York Stock Exchange. However, a full listing is unlikely.

Strong sales of Rochester's drugs were behind the 30 per cent rise in overall sales, to £332 million in the year to December 31. The sales of Rochester's products in the half year since the acquisition were $77 million, or more than three-quarters of Rochester's total sales of $100 million in 1995.

One of the high-flying Rochester drugs is Ionamin, an obesity treatment, whose half-year sales, at £22 million, exceeded the total sales in the previous year.

Medeva reported pre-tax profits of £103.5 million, before restructuring charges, up 31 per cent. Earnings per share were 20.8p, against 16.9p. Profits after a restructuring charge of £65.2 million were £38.5 million.

More than half the charge went to upgrading Rochester's manufacturing operations, allowing them to make Medeva's existing American products and any others that it will acquire, and consolidating the two companies' administrative sites.

The charge also included a £14 million writedown of Medeva's hospital products business in the US.

Dr Bogie said that he expected to form more alliances with biotechnoloy companies this year, but would not provide details. Medeva recently formed a partnership with Peptide Therapeutics, a vaccines discovery company.

A final dividend of 3.15p, to be paid on May 23, makes the total dividend 4.8p, up 20 per cent. The shares closed at 283½p, up 3½p.

Lorien to focus on integration

BY TOM TUGENDHAT

THE rapid growth of Lorien, the information technology consultancy that has raised £30 million in the last six months, looks set to pause this year as the company concentrates on integrating its three recent acquisitions.

Lorien paid £11 million last August for PE International, the management consultancy. More recently, it has bought Arena Resources, an agency that provides IT contract staff, and Frost Berkeley Associates, which provides IT staff for financial services companies.

Although Lorien said it remains in a strong position to fund further acquisitions, it intends to spend 1997 consolidating its market positions.

The company was reporting pre-tax profits of £1.9 million, before exceptional items, for the year to November 26. This was almost double the previous year's total. Turnover jumped from £29.1 million to £45.7 million.

Stripping out the effect of exceptional items, earnings rose from 12.1p to 15.4p. Lorien will pay a final dividend of 5p a share, almost doubling the total payout to 7.5p.

Advanced Power shares fall 30%

BY FRASER NELSON

SHARES in Advanced Power fell a further 30 per cent yesterday after the recently-floated electrical component supplier gave warning that its profits would be hit by sluggish demand.

The shares, which had fallen 26 per cent since the start of the week, hit a low of 41½p before closing at 46½p. The company joined the market at 70p last November.

The warning confirmed fears that the market for ISDN digital phone lines is softening. Roger Robinson, chief executive, said: "The prices of ISDN lines in Britain are the highest in the world, and this has been hitting our customers quite hard. We didn't make any forecast when we floated, but the expectations of short-term growth have certainly changed."

While only 40 per cent of the company's profits come from ISDN-related products, Henry Cooke Corporate Finance, its broker, cut the profits forecast to £850,000 for 1997, against the £1.5 million expected at flotation.

Analysts are expecting similar warnings from the sector. Shares of Premier Farnell have lost 25 per cent of their value in the last three weeks, and IOC International shares fell 11 per cent after a director sold a £62,000 stake.

Sharp adds edge to Capital fight

CAPITAL CORPORATION, the casino operator fighting a £180 million bid, yesterday bolstered its board by promoting Ernest Sharp to deputy chairman (Alasdair Murray writes).

Capital said it expects Mr Sharp to play a major role as the hostile bid from the rival London Clubs International unfolds. He has been a non-executive director since 1993 and has served as chairman of Somerfield, the supermarket group.

Capital, which has rejected the bid, said it is awaiting details of the all-paper offer before issuing a defence. Capital shares fell 4½p, to 192p. London Clubs lost 1p, to 380p, valuing its bid at 178.6p.

Inntrepreneur backed by OFT

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

INNTREPRENEUR, the pub company, yesterday won vital concessions from the Office of Fair Trading over its beer supply agreements — clearing the way for the company to float next year.

John Taylor, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, ruled that Inntrepreneur should no longer be obliged to free its pubs from tied beer-supply agreements in March 1998. Mr Taylor also ended restrictions on the size of the company's pub estate and the requirement to take a guest beer.

But Inntrepreneur will now be obliged to allow its tenants to choose beer supply agreements with brewers other than Scottish & Newcastle, when its supply deal expires in March 1998. Inntrepreneur, which is jointly owned by Grand Metropolitan and Fosters, welcomed the deal, saying it would enable it to become more competitive and exact greater purchasing power.

The company has fought a series of acrimonious legal battles with some tenants over rents and supply agreements in the past few years. The latest agreement is likely to provoke further lawsuits from publicans who claim they signed leases on the understanding that they would be free of the tie arrangements by 1998.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

French pave way for Thomson-CSF sale

THOMSON, the French electronics group, will be split in two to ensure a rapid privatisation of its defence arm, Thomson-CSF, the French Government said yesterday. The announcement, confirming the Government had abandoned plans for a public flotation of Thomson-CSF, paved the way for a straight fight between Lagardère, owner of Matra, and Alcatel Alsthom.

The first attempt to privatise Thomson ended in fiasco, with an independent commission blocking proposals to sell the consumer electronics division, Thomson Multimedia, to Daewoo, the South Korean firm. In an attempt to prevent a second failure, the French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, has decided to postpone privatisation of Multimedia, which has debts of Fr14 billion. He is confident Thomson-CSF can be sold off this summer once it has been freed from its troubled consumer-electronics partner.

Winchester TV boost

WINCHESTER Multimedia, the company that has seen its shares slide far below the price at which it listed on the Alternative Investment Market, yesterday received a boost from an agreement to broadcast two of its children's series on television in North America. Winchester, whose shares floated at 100p, has been hit by the collapse of ECP, a magazine publisher, and the weak performance of *Rainbow*, the film in which it invested £1 million. Winchester's shares yesterday climbed 8p, to close at 70½p.

FirstBus faces referral

FIRSTBUS, the transport operator, will pay £54 million for CentreWest, a London bus company, in an agreed takeover. FirstBus is offering 2.5 FirstBus shares for each CentreWest share, valuing each share at 586p. The Office of Fair Trading said it is considering recommending referring the deal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The OFT wants public comments by March 5. FirstBus has agreed to refinance CentreWest's net debts, including its loan stock, for an amount not expected to exceed £30 million.

Porvair's price slips

SHARES in Porvair, which makes skins for footballs and other synthetic materials, fell 20p to 250p yesterday after the company detailed the problems it has suffered over the past year. Poor sales from its glove inserts and a difficult market from Selee, its latest acquisution held pre-tax profits to £4.2 million (£5.1 million) for the year to November 30. The total dividend rises to 5.6p (5.4p), with a final payment of 3.7p, due on April 10. This is in spite of a 39 per cent fall in earnings per share, to 11p.

Tempus, page 28

GEC links to Siemens

GEC has merged its telecommunications arm with Siemens, the German electronics group, in a joint venture that will employ 3,000 people and have an estimated turnover of £265 million. The new Siemens GEC Communications Systems, in which both groups have an equal stake, was announced last summer and operations began yesterday. It will pool the GPT business systems division, GPT Communications Systems and Siemens Business Communication Systems.

With the

W000,000,0

- Pre-tax profit up 18% to £392 million (excluding conversion costs)
- Cost:income ratio down from 48.9% to 45.8%
- Unit trust and life funds under management up 58% to over £1 billion
- UK Stockmarket Fund ranked in top quartile of unit trusts over one, three and five years.
- Net mortgage lending up 50% to £1.4 billion

ACCOUNTANCY

Charities called to account

Richard Derwent on a daunting new regime facing preparers of annual returns and their advisers

Regulations made under the Charities Act 1993 took effect for accounting *periods* beginning on or after March 1, 1996. *In* practice this takes effect next week, for charities whose accounting periods span a year, for February 28, 1997, year-ends.

The *regulations* apply in different ways to charities that are registered, those which are exempt and those which are excepted from registration. *In* general, charities have to maintain proper accounting records and submit, annually, to the Charity *Commissioners*, accounts, an annual report *and an* annual return.

For the first time in charity law there is a requirement for *most* accounts to show a true and fair view and *to* be audited or subject to independent scrutiny. The revised statement of recognised practice (*Sorp*) *is* intended to apply to all charities preparing accounts on the accruals basis.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, the guidance in that Sorp represents best practice and should be followed to give a true and fair view, as required by both the 1993 Act and the Companies Act 1985. The *matter* of whether the provisions in the Companies Act 1985 are to be modified for charitable companies has not been resolved, but *it looks as if* changes to that Act are not considered to be a ministerial priority. Indeed, although it was agreed to look carefully at the *requirements* in both the 1985 and 1993 Acts to see *whether* a modified regime for charitable companies would be desirable, the DTI does not look *predisposed to change* the 1985 Act. This has created some conflicts between the two Acts — although the 1993 Act does confer general powers on the *Commissioners to* institute inquiries into any charity (other than an exempt charity) and to call for documents and search records.

Some of the accounting conflicts could be resolved by prohibiting charitable companies from being classified as *small* and *medium-sized* companies where they satisfy certain criteria.

Because the principal source of income for many charities *is voluntary donations* by members of the public, such a prohibition would be supported by those

Richard Derwent thinks the new rules demand attention

who believe that a greater public interest exists in the accountability of charities than *in commercial* companies of equivalent size. Such a prohibition would conflict with the DTI's *deregulatory initiatives*, which appear to carry greater weight.

There is, however, nothing to prevent a more specialised *document — in this* case the revised Sorp — from imposing a more strict accounting regime. Both FRS2 and the 1985 Act exempt parent companies of small and medium-sized groups from preparing *consolidated* accounts. *However*, both the FRS and the Act are written with the generality of companies (and other entities) in mind. Accordingly, *in* drafting its proposals, the Charity Accounting Review Committee has sought to recommend that, in the interests of showing a true and fair view, consolidated *accounts* are prepared in all cases. Non-consolidation would represent a departure from the *recommendations* and might *be held to be a failure to show* such a view.

In these circumstances, charity trustees would need to have strong grounds, which must be disclosed in *the accounts and which may* need to be justified to the Commissioners, that a (more) true and fair view is provided by non-consolidation. The fact that both the FRS and the Act exempt *small* and *medium-sized* companies from doing so might not be held to represent sufficient grounds.

Auditors of unincorporated charities have a statutory duty to report, in certain circumstances, to the appropriate regulatory authority. Although there is no equivalent statutory duty which applies to auditors of charitable companies, they would need to *follow the requirements of SAS* 120.

For unincorporated charities and charitable companies not subject to an audit, the level of *scrutiny and the qualifications* required to carry out that scrutiny differ. Unless changes to the 1985 Act are made, this *latter* conflict is *likely* to be *magnified by a recent* DTI consultative document which proposes to abandon a statutory requirement for audit exemption reports.

The *provisions* in the 1993 Act, the Regulations and the revised Sorp herald a daunting new regime on which preparers of charity accounts and their *advisers* should *now* be focusing attention.

The new regime represents the culmination of many years' debate, which has run parallel *to the increasingly visible* profile which charities now enjoy, and is no more than commensurate with the important role that charities play in the UK today.

Richard Derwent is a chartered accountant and author of *Charities: An Industry Accounting and Auditing Guide* (Accountancy Books, PO Box 620, Milton Keynes; £65; Call 01908 248000).

[redacted]

Careful look at the accounts

THIS morning sees one of the *great annual gatherings of the* financial reporting world. At the Mansion House in the City the Lord Mayor of London will preside over the presentation of *the annual awards for the best* published report and accounts. The awards are sponsored by the Stock Exchange and the Institutes of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, Ireland and Scotland. And certainly the English institute will be looking carefully at the winning entries. This week it published *a research paper, Financial Graphs in Corporate Annual Reports.* Its conclusions were stark: "UK companies are among the most *likely to use graphical representation* to *present* a distorted view of the underlying data."

On the wing

HARSH words were said as the UK Government's case against Arthur Andersen over *the ill-fated investment in* John DeLorean's gull-winged sports car was thrown out of the New York courts this week. The judge said: "What *lies ahead is the arduous task* of *reducing this* case from a miasma of frequently rhetorical and conclusory allegations and a Niagara of paper to a manageable and focused dispute." *Perhaps he* would like to help out over the forthcoming general election, too.

In at the birth

GREAT excitement in the media and entertainment department of Chantry Vellacott *last Thursday. Jerome* Walton, who normally deals with people such as the Rolling Stones, had to vacate his office rather swiftly so that a *secretary could use it to give* birth. Molly McHugh (5lb 14oz) and her mother Debbie are said to be doing fine. A spokesman said: "But the partners are recovering slowly."

ROBERT BRUCE

What would granny have made of it?

IN his battle against off balance sheet wheezes and creative accounting generally, Sir David Tweedie, chairman of the Accounting Standards *Board, has often used the folksy test of "if your granny would think it* was wrong, then it probably is wrong". After the decisions which came out of the Review Panel on off balance sheet finance this week, all grannies who are in nursing homes should be asking for the account.

The decision over the accounts of Associated Nursing Services (ANS) is being seen at the Financial Reporting Review Panel as a landmark case. Since November 1995 the panel has been arguing with ANS, a long-term healthcare provider, over two areas of *its accounts. The first to do with joint venture,* the second with sale and leaseback arrangements. Both were to do with Financial Reporting Standard 5, FRS5, which was intended to tackle off balance sheet finance. *Its overiding* principle was that "a reporting entity's financing statements should report the substance of the transactions into which it has entered". Like many of *the ASB's rules, the aim* was *to* make companies think about what they were reporting and to ensure that they stuck to the spirit of the rules *rather than the more* obscurantist letter of the law. The ASB had "noted the development of complex schemes *that* could obscure the true *extent* of a company's borrowings and the assets and liabilities they finance, and schemes that treated as sales transactions which were in *reality financing*".

[redacted]

ROBERT BRUCE

It was always clear that the "granny test" would loom large in this one. The greatest creative accounting sin of the late 1980s was that of shifting debt off the balance sheet via some scheme or other. The shareholders would be oblivious of the arrangement. No sign of it would appear on the balance sheet except, of course, greatly enhanced gearing.

So the Review Panel has been looking around for a good test case. It was probably unfortunate that the accounts of ANS turned up when they did. As a result, what the *finance director* at ANS describes as "a very long and protracted discussion" took place.

Howard Williams, of Clark Whitehill, which audits ANS, said: "Until a month ago we were confident." Herbert Smith, the company's lawyers, *had said that the* sale and leaseback scheme the company was using did not fall foul of FRS5. Then the Review Panel, as it is entitled to do, said it would take the company's accounts to court for a ruling.

At this point, the case collapsed. Taking a company to court is the panel's final *sanction* and one that Edwin Glasgow, QC, its chairman, takes extremely seriously. No company has ever risked it. They have always backed down. And so *did* ANS. The company has now *restated its accounts*.

But the shock waves will *continue. The* sale and leaseback arrangement it had bought, like many such arrangements, was an off-the-peg scheme tailored to the industry. It was provided by Nursing Home Properties (NHP), which *exists to provide specialist nursing home property* investment. Normally under a sale and leaseback arrangement a company will sell a fixed asset, such as buildings, to a specialist financial organisation. *This effectively removes the asset* from the company's balance sheet. And, more crucially, it also removes any liabilities, such as mortgages, that relate to the asset. The company then *rents back the asset and uses* it for its original purpose. This is standard practice throughout the retail world in particular. *The result is that,* in the words of Daniel Francis, NHP's finance director, "there are implications in this ruling for every company *in the country*". Certainly the ruling should provide an avalanche of work for lawyers and accountants as they seek to *establish quite what David* Tweedie's granny might think of their arrangements.

The key to such schemes is how far the deal distances the company, *when it sells its* buildings and then leases them back, from the concept of ownership. The Review Panel took the view that "the nature of the transaction was such that not all the significant rights or other access to benefits relating to the asset in question and not all the significant exposure to the risk inherent in those benefits, had been transferred to the purchaser".

The *implication*, said the panel, was *that "an asset should have remained on the* consolidated balance sheet and the sale proceeds should have been included in borrowings, with consequential profit and loss account adjustments".

Or to put it another way, *you should have* asked your granny if she thought you still owned the nursing home.

,000,LWICH...

- French and Italian businesses pre-tax profits up to £12 million
- General insurance business pre-tax profits up 55% to £15million
- "Another strong performance with record profits, showing the benefits of our diversification strategy. We are well placed for future growth following conversion and flotation."

JOHN STEWART, GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE

It's good to be with the WOOLWICH
BUILDING SOCIETY

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاهمال

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
For 3M see Guard (Union)				
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	724.50	770.80	+ 1.20	2.28
General Inc	604.70	643.30	+ 0.90	2.26
UK Growth Acc	502.40	534.50	+ 1.10	2.40
UK Growth Inc	325.10	345.90	+ 0.70	2.40
Higher Inc Acc	899.80	957.30	+ 3.60	3.78
Higher Inc Inc	479.40	510.00	+ 1.90	3.78
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	219.00	231.30	- 0.30	5.68
Gilt/Fxd Int Inc	95.88	101.20	- 0.20	5.68
Nth America	381.30	405.70	- 1.80	..
Europe	396.40	421.80	- 2.80	0.07
[illegible]	99.35	105.60	+ 0.20	2.51
Brd Friendly Acc	126.40	134.50	+ 0.40	4.36
Brd Friendly Inc	84.50	89.90	+ 0.20	4.36
Global Opps	106.00	112.80	- 0.80	..
Balanced Acc	67.07	71.36	- 0.03	2.43
Balanced Inc	62.63	66.63	- 0.02	2.43
Japan Acc	37.42	39.81	- 0.33	
Pac Basin Acc	410.80	437.10	- 2.30	0.79
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	136.60	145.80	- 0.40	6.56
High Inc Equity	197.60	211.30†	+ 0.10	4.50
Worldwide Bond	271.60	288.20†	- 0.80	4.64
American Growth	440.50	470.80†	- 0.20	0.35
Asian Pacific	340.70	364.40	- 0.20	0.39
Assets & Earnings	326.30	349.00	- 0.30	2.70
Euro Capital Acc	204.30	218.50	- 1.30	0.72
Extra Inc	42.81	45.54†	- 0.10	4.64
General	290.90	309.50†	+ 0.70	2.82
Global Opps	75.35	80.15	- 0.18	0.59
Japan	89.22	95.42		
Managed Inc	49.68	52.85†	- 0.06	4.26
Mastertrust	177.10	189.40	- 0.10	1.27
US Emerging Cos	200.30	213.10	- 2.90	
Ethical	89.20	94.89	+ 0.28	1.81
International	141.80	150.90	- 0.40	0.66
Dividend & Growth	72.86	77.51†	+ 0.03	4.33
Global Grth & Sec	74.70	79.88	- 0.04	2.33
Latin America	81.59	86.80	+ 0.49	0.45
Crystal Reserve	147.60	147.70	..	4.74

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Pacific Portfolio	166.62	179.17	- 0.23	0.74
UK Equity	104.93	112.02	+ 0.14	3.18
UK Equity & Bd	62.09	65.79	+ 0.09	5.14
UK Smlr Cos	56.38	60.20	+ 0.04	1.25
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	626.38	630.84	+ 6.02	4.08
Fxd Int Sec	161.93	162.57	+ 0.33	6.80
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	809.41	821.65	+ 4.71	4.19
Investment Acc	537.78	539.35	+22.11	..
Fixed Int Inc	130.84	131.38	+ 1.40	6.63
Fixed Int Acc	243.75	244.73	+ 2.06	.
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	91.00	95.94	+ 2.70	5.22
Beck Bio-Tech	47.23	51.22	..	
Acorn Ethical Fd	200.84	210.90	..	0.42
City Fin Assets	83.18	87.35		1.76
City Fin Intl	91.15	95.73	+ 2.16	0.13
[illegible]	323.40	344.04†	..	2.30
Buckley Wrld Grth	148.13	157.02	+ 3.74	..
J Sel Inc/Gth Inc	60.91	62.96		3.25
Stow Utilities	65.24	66.60	- 0.01	6.64
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	60.39	63.98	+ 0.46	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Grwth	87.79	93.39	- 0.44	..
Dragon Growth	74.38	79.55	- 0.56	0.25
Equity High Inc	99.08	105.99	+ 0.51	3.57
-do- Accum	144.22	154.41	+ 0.75	3.52
Extra Income Inc	27.57	29.04	+ 0.06	6.72
Extra Income Acc	30.77	32.41	+ 0.07	6.72
European Grth	67.80	71.94	- 0.73	0.44
Evergreen	32.45	34.70	- 0.18	..
General Equity	115.21	122.34	+ 0.33	2.43
Japan Growth	38.04	40.47	- 0.37	.
Pedigree Grth	69.32	74.26	+ 0.12	2.01
Pad Sm Cos Inc	40.96	44.04	+ 0.03	1.01
-do- Accum	43.66	46.95	+ 0.03	1.01

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Hy 5 Europe	108.50	114.00	- 1.10	1.95
Slater Grth	209.50	222.80	- 0.50	0.90
New Japan	80.42	84.57	- 0.05	...
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	229.20	243.80†	- 2.50	
Income #	241.76	257.19†	+ 0.33	4.03
UK Growth	94.64	100.68†	+ 0.03	1.86
Intl Growth	91.26	97.08†	- 0.60	0.58
Ecology	172.24	179.40	- 0.15	0.67
European	230.84	245.57†	- 1.15	0.20
Far Eastern	313.60	333.60†	- 2.10	
UK Special Sits	59.91	63.90	+ 0.13	0.38
Fd of Inv Tsts	56.43	60.19	+ 0.29	

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
MGM UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Dealing: 01277 261 010 Enq: 01903 204 631				
European Growth	109.12	116.08	- 1.35	0.44
Intl Bond	64.13	67.37	- 0.19	4.71
Intl Equity Growth	89.11	94.66	- 0.48	0.54
N Amer Growth	156.97	166.67	+ 0.57	0.70
Special Sits Growth	30.51	32.45	- 0.02	1.95
UK Growth	499.80	531.70	- 0.21	2.38
-do- Accum	690.16	734.20	- 0.28	2.38
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01820 825867				
Balanced Fd #	1503.18	1527.48	..	2.80
Income #	1057.00	1083.60†	...	4.00

THE BUCKS STOP HERE.

BLACK COUNTRY

THE BLACK COUNTRY. WHERE THE RACE FOR LAND IS ON.

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	[illegible]	108.70	+ 0.30	6.61
Euro Pref Inc	110.90	118.00	- 1.00	2.75
-do- Accum	110.80	118.00	- 1.00	2.75
Gilt Yield	121.40	130.10	- 0.40	6.27
Global Income	245.50	261.20†	- 0.80	7.05
High Yield	172.00	183.00†	+ 1.30	5.10
-do- Accum	574.90	611.60†	+ 4.70	5.10
Money Market	98.57	98.87	+ 0.07	5.45
Smaller Cos Div	65.94	70.15†	- 0.03	3.63
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	182.30	155.80†	..	3.33
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Pfolio	185.30	195.20†	- 0.10	2.34
-do- Accum	226.90	233.90†	- 0.20	2.34
UK Sel Pfolio	170.00	175.30	+ 0.40	2.38
-do- Accum	207.00	213.40	+ 0.50	2.38
UK 100 Cos	128.60	128.60	+ 0.30	2.50
-do- Accum	131.90	131.80	+ 0.30	2.50
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 384 842				
Managed Tst	75.09	79.99		3.26

EBRUARY 20 1997

5

Equities retain their gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
565	407½	Allied Domecq	438½	+ 6½	6.6	13.2
625	477	Bulmer (HP)	617½	..	2.7	18.4
131	63½	Burn Stewart	67½	+ ½	6.3	71.7
980	615	Glenmorangie A	960	...	1.6	26.1
496	411	Grand Met	458½	...	4.3	14.8
493	424	Guinness	447	+ 7	4.8	13.9
380	315	Highland Dist	356½	- 2	2.9	17.1
803	255½	Matthew Clark	305½	- 2	8.8	14.8
141	91½	[illegible]	107½		5.3	14.5
2612½	1375	SA Breweries	1943½	- 34½	1.8	..

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

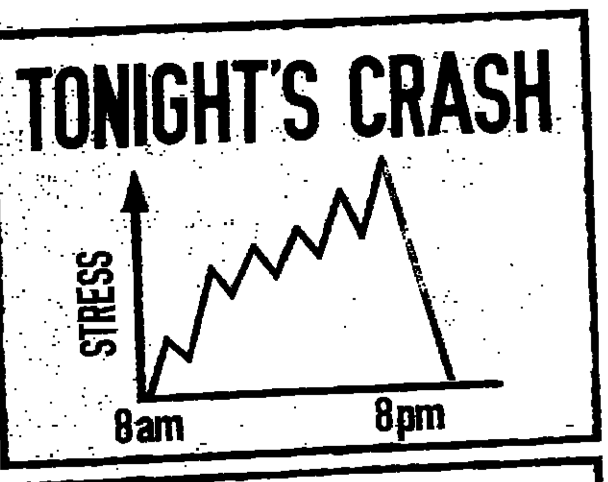
SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER



TONIGHT'S CRASH

15 NEW WAYS TO ESCAPE FROM STRESS

Men'sHealth

MARCH ISSUE OUT NOW

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1996/97 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	18	Abacus Recruit	100½	...		28.7
213	95	Cafe Inns	187½	- 7½	1.6	14.4
171½	98	Country Gdns	155½		1.1	16.0
2550	880	Dawson Hldgs	2550		2.0	19.3
49¼	14	Freepages	49¼	+ ¾		
117	88½	Megalomedia	90		.	50.5
475	22½	Memory Corp	40	- 4		
239½	85½	Old English Pub	221½	- 4	0.8	89.6
990	151	Prism Rail	295			
1225	379	Ramco Egy	1155	+ 10	0.1	
698	520	Southern News	698	+ ½	3.2	19.9
79½	50	Southern Vectis	67½	...	3.5	15.6
496	122	Surrey Fr Invst	442	- 2	0.7	30.7
79½	33½	Trocadero	34	- 1½		

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension, † Ex dividend, ‡ Ex scrip, ▲ Ex rights issue, ▼ Ex all, § Ex capital distribution, * Figures on report awaited, ... No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاهل

Court of Appeal

Law Report February 20 1997

Damages guidelines for jury trying police actions

Thompson v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis
Hsu v Same

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Brian Neill

[Judgment February 19]

Guidelines as to the directions to be given to a jury assessing damages in civil actions against the police were given by the Court of Appeal in order to establish some relationship between such awards and damages for personal injuries.

An award of £50,000 was the *absolute maximum that was appropriate for exemplary damages* in such cases and then only where officers of at least the rank of superintendent had been involved in the *unlawful conduct*.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis against an award of £51,500 damages by Judge Quentin Edwards, QC and a jury at *Central London County Court on June 12, 1995* to Claudette Thompson for false imprisonment, assault and malicious prosecution.

An appeal by the commissioner against an award of £220,000 damages by *Judge Quentin Edwards, QC and a jury* at Central London County Court on March 28, 1996 to Kenneth Hsu for wrongful arrest, false imprisonment and assault was allowed to the extent of reducing the damages to £35,000.

Mr Ben Emmerson for Miss Thompson; *Mr David Pannick*, QC *and* Miss Fiona Barton for the commissioner.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC and Mr Ben Emmerson for Mr Hsu; Mr David Pannick, QC and Mr Nicholas Ainley for the commissioner.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, *giving the judgment of the court, said that in a number of* recent cases members of the public had been awarded large sums of exemplary damages by juries against the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis for unlawful conduct towards *them* by the police. *As a result the present appeals* had been brought by the commissioner.

The intention was to clarify the directions which a judge should include in a summing-up to assist the jury as to the amount of *damages*, particularly *exemplary damages*, which it was appropriate for them to award a plaintiff who was successful in such an action.

Guidance that should be given

While there was no formula which was appropriate for all cases and the precise form of a *summing-up was very much a matter within the discretion of the* trial judge, it was suggested that in many cases it would be convenient to include in a summing-up on the issue of damages additional directions on *the following lines:*

1 *It should be explained to the jury that if they found in the* plaintiff's favour the only remedy which they had *power* to grant was an award of damages. Save in exceptional situations such damages were only awarded as compensation and were intended to compensate the plaintiff for any injury or damage which he *had* suffered. They were *not intended to punish the defendant.*

2 As the law stood at present compensatory damages were of two types:

(a) ordinary damages which the court would suggest should be described as basic, and

(b) aggravated damages. Aggravated damages could only be awarded *where they were claimed* by the plaintiff and where there were aggravating features about the defendant's conduct which justified the award of aggravated *damages. Where special damages were* claimed *in respect* of some specific pecuniary loss that claim should be explained separately.

3 The jury should be told that the basic damages would depend on the circumstances and the degree *of harm suffered by the plaintiff. But they should be provided* with an appropriate bracket to use as a starting point. The judge would be responsible for determining the bracket, and the court envisaged *that in the ordinary way the judge would have heard submissions* on the matter from counsel in the absence of the jury.

4 In a straightforward case of wrongful arrest and imprisonment or malicious prosecution the jury *should be informed of the approximate figure to be taken* as the correct starting point for basic damages for the actual loss of liberty or for the wrongful prosecution, and also given an approximate ceiling figure. It *should be explained that those were no more* than guideline figures based on the judge's experience and on awards in other cases and the actual figure was one on which they must decide.

5 In a straightforward case of *wrongful arrest and imprisonment the starting point was* likely to be about £500 for the first hour during which the plaintiff had been deprived of his or her liberty. After the first hour an additional sum was to be awarded, *but that sum should be on a reducing scale so as to keep the damages propor*tionate with those payable in personal injury cases and because the plaintiff was entitled to have a higher rate of compensation for the initial shock of being arrested. As a *guideline the court considered, for example, that a plaintiff who had* been wrongly kept in custody for 24 hours should for that alone normally be regarded as entitled to an award of about £3,000.

6 In the case of malicious prosecution, the figure should start at *about £2,000 and for prosecution continuing for* as long as two *years*, the case being taken to the crown court, an award of about £10,000 could be appropriate. If a malicious prosecution resulted in a conviction which *was only set aside on an appeal that would* justify a larger award to reflect the longer period during which the plaintiff had been in peril and had been caused distress.

7 The figures which the court had identified so far were provided to assist the judge in determining the bracket within which the jury should be invited to place their award. The court appreciated, *however, that circumstances could vary dramatically* from case to case and that those and subsequent figures which the court provided were not intended to be applied in a mechanistic manner.

8 If the case was one in which aggravated damages were claimed and could be appropriately awarded, *the nature* of aggravated damages should be explained to the jury. Such damages could be awarded where there were aggravating features about the *case which would result in the* plaintiff not receiving sufficient compensation for the injury suffered if the award were restricted to a basic award. Aggravating features could include humiliating *circumstances at the time of the* arrest or any conduct of those responsible for the arrest or the prosecution which showed that they had behaved in a high-handed, insulting, malicious or oppressive *manner either in relation to the arrest or imprisonment* or in conducting the prosecution. Aggravating features could also include the way the litigation and trial were conducted.

9 The jury should then be told that *if they considered the case was one for the award of damages* other than basic damages then they should usually make a separate award for each category. That was contrary to the present practice but would result in greater transparency *as to the make-up of the* award.

10 Where it was appropriate to award aggravated damages the figure was unlikely to be less than £1,000. It was not possible to indicate a precise arithmetical *relationship between basic damages and* aggravated damages because the circumstances would vary from case to case. In the ordinary way, however, the court would not expect the aggravated damages to be as much as twice *the basic damages except perhaps where*, on the particular facts, the basic damages were modest.

11 It should be strongly emphasised to the jury that the total figure for basic and aggravated damages should not exceed what they considered was *fair compensation for the injury which* the plaintiff had suffered. It should also be explained that if aggravated damages were awarded, such damages, although compensatory and not intended as a punishment, would *in fact contain a penal element as far as the defendant* was concerned.

12 Finally, the jury should be told in a case where exemplary damages were claimed and the judge considered that there was evidence to support such a claim, that *although it was not normally* possible to award damages with the object of punishing the defendant, exceptionally that was possible where there had been conduct, including oppressive or arbitrary behaviour, by police officers which deserved the exceptional remedy of exemplary damages. It should be explained to the jury:

(a) That if the jury were awarding *aggravated* damages those damages *would have already* provided compensation *for the injury suffered by the plaintiff as a result of the oppressive and* insulting behaviour of the police officer and, inevitably, a measure of punishment from the defendant's point of view.

(b) That exemplary damages should be awarded *if, but only if, they considered that the* compensation awarded by way of basic and aggravated damages was in the circumstances an inadequate punishment for the defendants.

(c) *That an award of exemplary* damages was in effect a windfall for the plaintiff and, where damages would be payable out of police funds, the sum awarded might not be available to be expended by the *police in a way which would* benefit the public. That guidance would not be appropriate if the claim was to be met by insurers.

(d) That the sum awarded by way of exemplary damages should be *sufficient to mark the jury's disapproval of the oppressive or* arbitrary behaviour but should be no more than was required for that purpose.

13 Where exemplary damages were appropriate they were unlikely to be *less* than £5,000. *Otherwise the case was probably not one* which justified an award of exemplary damages at all. The conduct had to be particularly deserving of condemnation for an award of as much as £25,000 to be justified and the figure *of £50,000 should be regarded as the absolute* maximum, involving directly officers of at least the rank of superintendent.

14 In an appropriate case the jury should also be told that even though *the plaintiff* succeeded on *liability any improper conduct* of which they found him guilty could reduce or even eliminate any award of aggravated or exemplary damages if the jury considered that that conduct caused or contributed to the behaviour complained of.

The figures given would of course *require adjusting in the future* for inflation. The court appreciated that the guideline figures departed from the figures frequently awarded by juries at the present time. However, they were designed to establish some relationship between *the* figures *awarded in that area and those* awarded for personal injuries.

In giving guidance for aggravated damages the court had attached importance to the fact that they were intended to be compensatory and not punitive *although the same circumstances* might justify punishment.

In deciding upon what should be treated as the upper limits for exemplary damages the court had selected a figure which was sufficiently substantial to make it clear that there had been conduct of a *nature* which warranted *serious* civil *punishment* and *indicated the jury's vigorous disapproval* of what had occurred but at the same time recognised that the plaintiff was the recipient of a windfall in relation to exemplary damages.

As punishment was the primary objective in this class of case it was *more difficult to tie the amount of exemplary damages to the award of compensatory damages*, including aggravated. However, in many cases it could prove a useful check subject to the upper limits the court had identified if it was accepted *that it would be unusual for the exemplary damages* to produce a result of *more* than three times the basic damages being awarded, as the total of the basic, aggravated and exemplary damages.

The commissioner *had submitted that the jury should* be invited to take into account the disciplinary procedures which were available as against the officers when considering whether the case was one which warranted the award *of exemplary damages*.

In the court's view that should only be done where there was clear evidence that such proceedings were intended to be taken in the event of liability being established and that there was at least a strong possibility of the proceedings succeeding.

The court was also not in favour of plaintiffs' non co-operation with the complaints procedure reducing an award of damages. It was highly desirable that complainants should co-operate in disciplinary investigations but they were not legally obliged to do so. If they were not sufficiently public spirited *to do so, that could not be held* against them in law so as to reduce the amount payable when assessing the compensation to which they were entitled.

Where a false defence was persisted in that could justify an increase *in the aggravated or exemplary* damages but as that would almost invariably be the consequence of an unsuccessful defence, the guidance as to figures the court had given took that into *account. If a malicious prosecution* resulted in a conviction which was only set aside on an appeal that would justify a larger award.

In many cases it would be *convenient* for the jury's verdict on *liability to be taken* before they received directions as to quantum.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co, Camden; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Christian Fisher & Co, Bloomsbury; Solicitor, Metropolitan Police.

Payment-in notice is not an offer

Gorse and Others v Tinkler

A *notice* of payment into court made under Order 22 of the Rules of the Supreme Court was not, of itself, an offer which if accepted could constitute a contract to compromise an action.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Morritt and Sir Iain Glidewell) so held on February 10 when dismissing an appeal by the defendant, Michael Robert Tinkler, from the judgment *of Mr Justice Keene in July 1995 given in* Hartlepool District Registry, declaring that the first plaintiff, Richard Robert Gorse, was not bound by any compromise of his action for damages for personal injuries and that the action be *allowed to continue*.

SIR IAIN GLIDEWELL said that the issue was whether the plaintiff was entitled to continue his action so as to claim a greater amount than the balance of the amount paid into court that remained after *social security payments had been deducted.*

The defendant, having made the payment in, argued that an agreement at law had been reached compromising the plaintiff's claim. But a notice of payment into court was not an offer capable by its *simple* acceptance of constituting a *compromise of an action*.

As Lord Justice Goddard had said in *Cumber v Pothecary* ([1941] 2 KB 58, 67): "It is a wholly procedural matter and has no true analogy to a settlement arranged between the parties out of court, which, of course, *does constitute a contract*."

Court of Appeal

Earlier planning decision prevails

Hammond v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Brooke and Sir Brian Neill

[Judgment January 30]

The decision of a planning inspec*tor gave* rise to an estoppel per rem judicatam and where subsequently different inspectors reached contradictory decisions the first in time prevailed.

The Court of Appeal *so held in* dismissing an appeal by Michael *Roy Hammond* from the refusal by Mr Justice Dyson of an application under section 289(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for an order to *quash the* dismissal by the *Secretary of State* for the Environment of an appeal against an enforcement notice relating to the presence of a mobile home on his land.

Lord Kingsland, QC and Mr Alan Masters for Mr Hammond; Miss Nathalie *Lieven for the secretary of state*.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE, said that, the first issue was whether the relevant development occurred when Mr Hammond first stationed a mobile home on the land for the purposes of human *habitation* or whether *the development*, in the sense of a material change of use, had occurred since that time.

In the latter case the relevant breach of planning control did not occur at least 10 years before the *new 10-year limitation period* was introduced on *July 27*, 1992 by section 171B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, inserted by section 4 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991.

Rightly or wrongly, the first inspector *was satisfied that* Mr Hammond's use of the mobile home as accommodation for himself while he was building the bungalow brought his case within a deemed permission and he allowed the appeal against the *relevant enforcement notice* in 1986. He said that the breach of planning control did not start until completion of the dwelling in August 1985.

Miss Lieven argued that the effect of the decision in *Thrasyvoulou v Secretary of State for the Environment* ([1990] 2 AC 273) was that the first inspector's decision was to be treated *as res* judicata.

Although *that* case was concerned with *the* inability of the secretary *of state* through the *application* of the principles of estoppel to seek to relitigate an issue which had already been conclusively determined in favour of a citizen, she submitted that the underlying basis of the estoppel, namely that a judgment *in rem* had been *made* by a *competent statutory authority* was the same *whether* it was the citizen or the secretary of state or some other statutory authority which sought subsequently to argue that the original determination was wrong.

In his *Lordship's judgment*, this was a true case of res judicata. Lord Bridge's conclusion in *Thrasyvoulou* that the determination in favour of an appellant of an appeal against an *enforcement* notice gave rise *to an estoppel per rem judicatam* fell to be applied in the present case.

There was therefore a conclusive determination in rem that the use of the land in August 1985 did not give rise to a breach *of planning* control *so far as the* use of the mobile home was concerned.

Lord Kingsland submitted, however, that because the second inspector had reached a decision on the lawfulness of building the bungalow which *was to a contrary effect to the* decision of the first inspector on the lawfulness of the mobile homes's presence on the land there was an estoppel on an estoppel. The effect of the second inspector's decision was that the bungalow had *never had planning permission* at all. In those circumstances *deemed* permission could never have been available to the mobile home.

It appeared to his Lordship that when there were consecutive *decisions in rem by statutory quasi-judicial* authorities of equivalent status the first in time ought to prevail for present purposes. There was no injustice in that because if the first inspector's decision had gone the other way Mr Hammond would have had to take *the mobile home off the land 10 years earlier.*

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Sir Brian Neill agreed.

Solicitors: Stephen Fidler & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Human Rights Law Report

Strasbourg

Protection of health justifies conviction

Laskey, Jaggard and Brown v United Kingdom

(Case No 109/1995/615/703-705)

Before R. Bernhardt, President and Judges L.-E. Pettiti, C. Russo, A. Spielmann, Sir John Freeland, M. A. Lopes Rocha, L. Wildhaber, P. Küris and E. Levits

Registrar H. Petzold

Deputy Registrar P. J. Mahoney

[Judgment February 19]

The prosecution and conviction of the applicants for sado-masochistic practices was an interference in their private life which was "necessary in a democratic society". The European Court of Human Rights so held, unanimously, in *finding that there had been no* violation of article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (1953) (Cmd 8969).

The applicants, Colin Laskey, Roland Jaggard and Anthony Brown, were born in 1943, 1947 *and* 1935 *respectively. They were* members of a group of homosexual men who took part in sado-masochistic activities, involving maltreatment of the genitals, ritualistic beating and branding.

Those activities were consensual and *took place in private* between men of full age. The infliction of pain was subject to certain rules, including the use of a code word to call a halt to any activity, and no permanent *injury or infection* was caused.

The members of the group made videos of those events for private use, and some of those tapes fell into the hands of the police. Laskey, Jaggard and Brown, *among others*, were charged with a series of offences, primarily causing bodily harm and wounding contrary to sections 47 and 20 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861.

They argued that the consent of the alleged "victims" to the assaults provided them with a defence, but on November 19, 1990 the trial judge ruled that it could not. They *subsequently* pleaded guilty, and on December 19, 1990 were sentenced, in respect of the offences under the above mentioned sections, to imprisonment of twelve months (Laskey), three years (Jaggard) and two years and nine months (Brown).

The applicants appealed. The *Court of Appeal dismissed the* appeals against *conviction* but *reduced the respective sentences to* three months, six months and three months (*The Times* February 21, 1992; [1992] QB 491). The House of Lords, with two of the five dissenting, dismissed their appeals (*The Times* March 12, 1993; [1994] 1 AC 212). *The majority in the House of Lords* took the view that, in general, a victim's consent was no defence to a charge under the 1861 Act and that it would not be in the public interest to create an exception to that general rule to cover sado-masochistic activity.

The proceedings were given widespread press coverage. As a result, all the applicants lost *their* jobs and Jaggard required extensive psychiatric treatment. Laskey died in 1995.

The application to the European Commission of Human Rights, which was lodged on December 14, 1992, was declared admissible on January 18, 1995 as *regarded the* applicants' complaint concerning the alleged violation of their right to respect for private life. The remainder of the application was declared inadmissible.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commisson drew up a report on October 26, 1995 *in which* it established the facts and expressed the opinion by eleven votes to seven that there had been no violation of article 8 of the Convention.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

The applicants complained that their prosecution and conviction had violated their right to respect *for their private life under article 8* of the European Convention.

Article 8

It was common ground before the Court that the criminal proceedings against the applicants constituted an "interference by a public authority" with their right to respect *for private life*, that the *interference* was *carried* out "in accordance with the law" and that it pursued a legitimate aim, namely that of the "protection of health or morals". *The only issue before the Court was therefore* whether the interference was "necessary in a democratic society".

The Court observed that the State was unquestionably entitled to regulate the infliction of physical harm through the criminal law. *The determination of the tolerable* level of harm where the victim consented was primarily a matter for the state authorities.

The Court was not persuaded by the applicants' submission that their behaviour belonged exclusively to the sphere of their private *morality and therefore fell outside* the scope of state intervention.

It was evident from the facts that the applicants' activities had involved a significant degree of injury and wounding. Furthermore, *state authorities* were entitled to consider not only the actual harm but also the potential for more serious injury inherent in the activities.

There was no evidence to support the applicants' allegation of bias on the part of the authorities against homosexuals. The majority in the House of Lords had based their decision on the extreme nature of the practices.

Accordingly, the *reasons* given by the national authorities to justify the interference were relevant and sufficient.

In addition, given the degree of organisation involved, the limited number of charges finally selected for inclusion in the prosecution case, *and the reduced sentences* imposed on appeal, the interference could not be regarded as disproportionate.

The national authorities had been entitled to consider the interference "necessary in a democratic *society" for the protection of health* and there had therefore been no violation of the Convention.

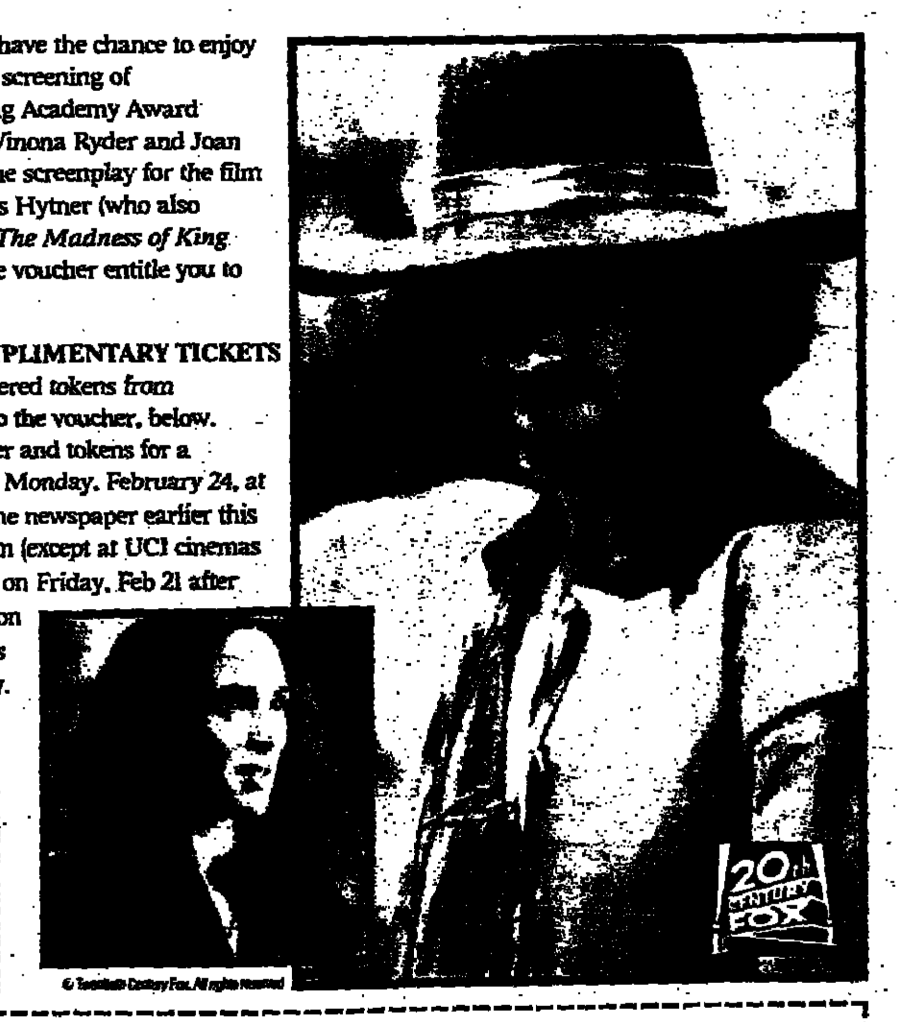
AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

Exclusive screenings of *The Crucible*

Readers of *The Times* have the chance to enjoy an exclusive preview screening of *The Crucible*, starring Academy Award winner Daniel Day-Lewis, Winona Ryder and Joan Allen. Arthur Miller wrote the screenplay for the film which is directed by Nicholas Hytner (who also directed the award winning *The Madness of King George)*. Four tokens and the voucher entitle you to TWO complimentary seats.

HOW TO GET YOUR COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS

Collect four differently numbered tokens *from The Times* and attach them to the voucher, below. Present the completed voucher and tokens for a screening of *The Crucible* on Monday, February 24, at one of the cinemas listed in the newspaper earlier this week, at either 6pm or 6.30pm (except at UCI cinemas where it should be redeemed on Friday, Feb 21 after 1pm). Seats will be allocated on a first-come, first-served *basis* and are subject to availability.



© Twentieth Century Fox. All rights reserved

THE TIMES
CRUCIBLE
TICKETS
OFFER
TOKEN 4

THE TIMES VOUCHER FOR TWO FREE TICKETS TO *THE CRUCIBLE*

This form, with four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* entitles the bearer to two FREE tickets, subject to availability, to one of the cinemas taking part in this offer. This voucher is not transferable. Valid only for *The Crucible*, February 24 1997. No photocopies, reproductions or vouchers missing tokens will be accepted.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other .... Initials................

Surname ....

Address ....

....

Postcode .... Day tel ....

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS:

Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)

☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) each week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by The Times, please tick ☐

CHANGING TIMES

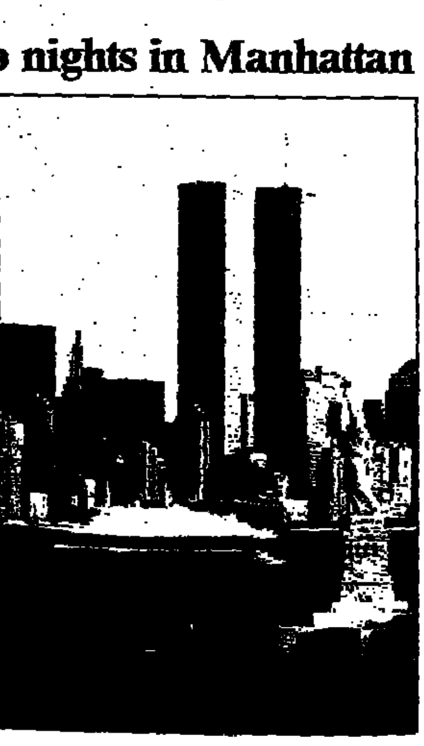
FANTASTIC SAVINGS EXCLUSIVELY FOR TIMES READERS

QE2 and New York from just £895

Six-night cruise plus two nights in Manhattan

THE QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 is renowned for her five-star elegance, and since a recent £45 million refurbishment, she is more luxurious than ever. There is no better way to experience the grandeur of cruising. Facilities include five dining rooms offering gourmet cuisine, cocktail bars, lounges, a theatre, and two swimming pools plus health spa.

Victoria Travel have negotiated an unbeatable offer for *Times* readers. From just £895 per person, this superb holiday gives you the chance to spend six nights cruising from Southampton before you sail past the Statue of Liberty to dock in downtown Manhattan. You will stay at New York's Hilton Hotel for two nights, giving you time to take in the sights of this spectacular city, before flying back to London Heathrow.



DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES PER PERSON

3 May 97	6 June 97	Cabin	Deck
£895	£995	Inside	Mauretania
£1095	£1195	Outside	Mauretania
£1395	£1495	Outside	Caronia

Prices are based on two persons sharing. 3rd/4th person and sole occupancy rates are available upon request.

On the 6 June departure, top chef Gary Rhodes is onboard the QE2, and will be presenting workshops, giving cookery tips and demonstrations.

ITINERARY

Day 1-6	Depart Southampton for your six nights transatlantic voyage to New York
Day 7-8	Disembark the QE2 for a sightseeing transfer to the Hilton Hotel, New York, for a two night stay.
Day 9	Evening flight with Virgin Airlines to London Heathrow
Day 10	Arrive London Heathrow early morning

ABTA 78024, ATOL 264.
This holiday is operated by Victoria Travel Service Ltd, a company independent of Times Newspapers LTD

CALL 0121 445 5656 NOW FOR FULL DETAILS AND A BOOKING FORM OR SEND YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO: THE TIMES QE2 OFFER, VICTORIA TRAVEL SERVICE LTD, 30 HEWELL RD, BARNT GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B45 8NE

■ FILM 1

John Travolta's charmed cinematic life comes to an end with the dreadful new Hollywood release *Michael*

■ FILM 2

The life and times of a female singer-songwriter are the inspiration for the new film *Grace of My Heart*

THE TIMES ARTS

■ FILM 3

The theme of love and loss is given a witty and elegant spin in Hal Hartley's latest, *Flirt*

■ FILM 4

The Phantom is a likeable if unoriginal addition to the list of old serials brought to the big screen

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** on the disappointing *Michael* and other new releases. Plus, French festival report

The short and the short of it

Daniel Rosenthal reports on the Clermont Ferrand film festival

When did you last see a short at the cinema? More than a decade has passed since various commercial factors led all but a handful of British screens to stop prefacing the main feature with a short film.

A director's best hope of gaining a large audience for his miniature masterpiece now resides in television, via strands such as Channel 4's *The Shooting Gallery*. Those determined to push their work onto the big screen must head for the burgeoning circuit of international festivals dedicated to shorts, which kicks off, in early February, at Clermont Ferrand, 80 miles west of Lyons.

The city held its first Festival du Court-Métrage in 1979, when Antoine Lopez and Georges Bollon, leading lights in the Clermont Ferrand university film society, programmed a week of shorts. Visiting directors slept at the organisers' digs and 1,200 people watched the films. Lopez and Bollon have remained on the selection committee for an event which now has a £700,000 budget, screens 150 films from 50 countries, and attracts 110,000 spectators in nine days.

French journalists call it "the Cannes of shorts", but the label is misleading. With its makeshift venues (lecture halls doubling as cinemas), young audiences, and resolute artistic focus on largely unknown talent, the festival has more in common with the Edinburgh Fringe.

With most entries in the French and international competitions made for between £10,000 and £40,000, the casts were pleasantly star-free. And this enhanced the conviction of the storytelling. Cleveland Wood's *Last Day On Earth*, a blackly comic gem by Canadian writer/director Andrew Ainsworth, offered us a handsome, chronically depressed 30-year-old whose doting mother tries to snap him out of a suicidal trough by hiring a strippagram. With unknown Scott Gibson in the title role, attention was totally bound up in the action, not the actor.

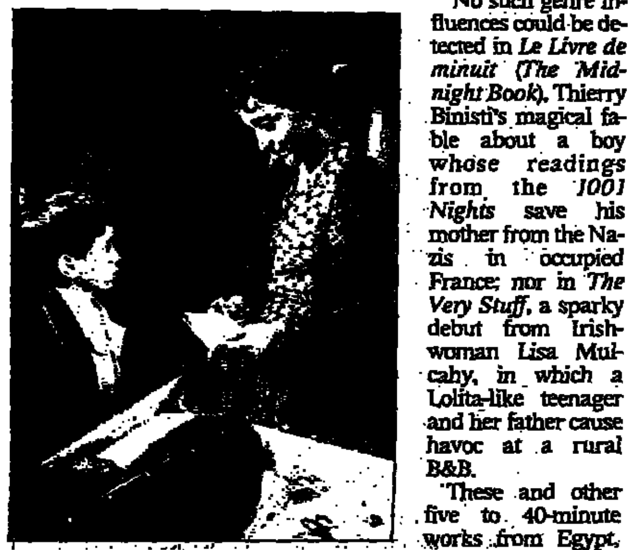
Recognition at Clermont-Ferrand has been a springboard to success for directors such as Jean-Pierre Jeunet (*Delicatessen*) and Mathieu Kassovitz (*La Haine*), yet only two of the 50 films I saw were blatant "Please hire me" calling cards: *Ausgestorben* (*Extinct*), by Germany's Michael Pohl, felt like a *Twelve Monkeys* wannabe, and *Le Silencieux* (*The Silencer*) had an assassin awaiting radio orders for his latest hit — director Fabrice Rendé clearly having spent too much time watching Luc Besson's *Nikita*.

No such genre influences could be detected in *Le Livre de minuit* (*The Midnight Book*), Thierry Binisti's magical fable about a boy whose readings from the *1001 Nights* save his mother from the Nazis in occupied France; nor in *The Very Stuff*, a sparky debut from Irishwoman Lisa Mulcahy, in which a Lolita-like teenager and her father cause havoc at a rural B&B.

These and other five to 40-minute works from Egypt, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil all demonstrated independent film-making in its purest form: writers and directors bound by reel time and resources, not star egos or studio executives intent on manufacturing the right "product".

Faced with such tremendous variety, it was disappointing to see the major prizes awarded to a homogenous batch of worthy films. The national Grand Prix went to Jean-Marc Moutout for *Tout doit disparaître* (*Everything Must Go*), highlighting the plight of France's long-term unemployed. And I could not cheer the International Grand Prix for *One Sunday Morning*, a heavy-handed debut from Britain's Manu Kurewa about a Nigerian asylum-seeker in London fatally refusing to comply with a deportation order.

By favouring political correctness over invention and neglecting the merits of so many more cinematic entries, the jurors were selling both festival and film-makers short.



Thierry Binisti's *Le Livre de minuit*

"A list of commercial ingredients, maudlin indulgences and pre-packaged whimsies": John Travolta in the ill-considered new film *Michael*

Travolta's latest fiction cries out to be pulped

John Travolta leads a charmed life. Left for dead after too many films featuring talking babies and dogs, he joins the Tarantino bandwagon, acts all mean in *Pulp Fiction*, and finds his career resurrected. His earnings skyrocket. People now build films around him, including bad ones like **Michael**, where he makes his first appearance looking seedy, scratching himself, belly hanging out, staggering downstairs to get a beer. Star charisma indeed. But audiences still flock, pushing *Michael* high up the American box-office chart.

Travolta's Michael is no ordinary slob. He is an angel, sent from Heaven to the Midwest plains of Iowa, where he first uses his powers to demolish a bank and rescue a widow from financial entanglements. Now, in between gulping booze and pouring cups of sugar over his cereal, he aims to spread love and harmony among the downcast professionals — two tabloid journalists, one "angel expert" — sent by the sleazy *National Mirror* newspaper to nail his story for page 1.

Even when scruffy and a tad overweight, Travolta still maintains his audience appeal, and can attract the ladies just like Michael, who has only to start dancing in a bar before every woman becomes a moth to his flame. But the surrounding story is so ragged, so contrived, that anyone untouched by the man will be rushing headlong towards the cinema exit.

When Frank Capra made the smalltown fantasy of *It's a Wonderful Life*, he gave the film the power of his own convictions. Nora Ephron, the director and co-writer of *Michael*, has no vision to guide her, only a list of commercial ingredients, maudlin indulgences and pre-packaged whimsies, generated perhaps by computer.

Nothing is remotely believable: one situation jostles another in an airless, fake movie universe. Apart from Travolta, William Hurt and Robert Pastorelli survive the best as the journalists with their jobs on the line. Bob Hoskins is loud and boring as the Chicago publisher cracking the whip, while Andie MacDowell shimmers with inadequacy as the sharp-tongued lady who joins in the chase.

The overrated *Sleepless in Seattle*, Ephron's previous hit, at least wrapped some enjoyably tart lines around the rolls of movie tinsel; but if a film as lazy, clumsy and artificial as this can find equal popular appeal, civilisation must be in a more parlous state than I thought.

Retro styling is fashionable in Hollywood, particularly in the music field. A few weeks ago Tom Hanks led us back to the early 1960s to watch the rise and fall of a one-hit band in *That Thing You Do!*. **Grace of My Heart** takes us on a longer journey, through the late 1950s, 1960s and into the 1970s in the company of a woman singer-songwriter, played by Illeana Douglas. Her fictional name is Denise Waverly; for a real-life source, you could try Carole King.

She starts out writing songs for others in the Brill Building in New York, home to many budding songsmiths who fuelled the new boom in teenage pop. Gradually she exerts her individuality in a male-dominated business. She goes through one marriage, one aborted pregnancy and one affair before becoming marooned in California with a Brian Wilson type (played by Matt Dillon) who lets the surf and drugs go to his head. She survives, and so do we.

But it's a close call. In terms of pace and production values, Allison Anders, the writer and director, has taken a big step up from her previous movies, *Gas Food Lodging* and *Mi Vida Loca*. This time she has Martin Scorsese on board as executive producer, and Thelma Schoonmaker as supervising editor, to help to drive the images along; although even these two cannot stop the film grinding to a halt in California, or hide the pile-up of caricatures and shallow situations that come to surround Waverly's life.

But if *Grace of My Heart* is trite, it accompanies the clichés with lively performances and a foot-tapping soundtrack with new songs styled in the old manner and supervised by Karyn Rachtman (she has also arranged Tarantino's soundtracks). Douglas may lack some of the weight needed to carry an entire film, and her singing voice is clearly not her own, but she has quirky vigour in plenty; while, as Denise's manager, John Turturro overcomes the year's strangest haircut (black thatch on top, a dribble of a beard perched on the chin) to find a warm human being under a hustler's exterior.

Hollywood does not have the monopoly on formulaic film-making. Independent directors can also fall into ruts, repeating their stylistic tics so often that their films become self-parodies. Hal Hartley, director of *Trust* and *Amateur* and lord of skittish characters talking in circles, is particularly prone to this. But in the intriguing **Flirt**, completed in 1995, he almost makes a virtue of his fondness for repetition.

The film spins three witty and elegant variations on the same story of the heart's affections, of commitment, betrayal and loss. In the first section, conceived as a separate short in 1993, a girl in New York gives her man an ultimatum: make a commitment, or end the relationship. He asks for 90 minutes to think it over, minutes in which he flirts elsewhere, and gets shot in the face. The next section, filmed after funding was found to build the short into a feature, whisks us to Berlin's gay scene (the funding was German), where a similar scenario is repeated. Then, thanks to the Nippon Film Development and Finance, we're off to Tokyo, for a loosely related tale involving one dance student, one choreographer, and a film director called Hal (Hartley himself).

"I always feel more playful with the shorter film," Hartley has said; and you certainly feel his impish high spirits as he turns his scenario upside down, indulges his penchant for non sequiturs and choreographed action, and uses the realities of international funding to fire his imagination.

The first section, featuring Bill Sage, Martin Donovan and rising attraction Parker Posey, is a particular triumph for Hartley's abrupt, off-kilter humour; while a pleasing hint of autobiography colours the last, relaxed episode. Slight though it feels overall, *Flirt* is never negligible.

Back now to the Hollywood mainstream and **The Phantom**, a likeable if unoriginal addition to the hordes of matinee serial and comic-strip thrills regularly emblazoned on the modern screen. The Phantom, incarnated here by Billy Zane and created in 1936 by Lee Falk, is a healthy, no-nonsense type, who leaps around in a figure-hugging purple suit without ever being aware of any sexual overtones.

His business, simply, is fighting evil, in particular members of the dreaded Sengh Brotherhood, who wear spider-web tattoos and yearn to control four ancient skulls with magic powers. It's a hard battle, involving a spectacular leap from a crashing plane on to a conveniently placed horse, a furious chase in Central Park, romantic sparring with Kristy Swanson, chilly encounters with Treat Williams's embryonic dictator and dangerous antics on a volcanic island.

Director Simon Wincer and his team try nothing fancy. They set the tale in the 1930s, adopt a light but never mocking tone, and enjoy making what mayhem they can on a budget far below Steven Spielberg's usual sums. Probably something more spectacular is needed to make an impression with general audiences; but anyone with a fondness for old serials should take *The Phantom* to heart.

Michael
Odeon West End
PG, 105 mins
Travolta's an angel and the film needs a miracle

Grace of My Heart
Empire, 15, 115 mins
Tuneful ride through the American pop scene

Flirt
Renoir, 15, 80 mins
Hal Hartley's lively divertissement

The Phantom
Plaza, 12, 100 mins
Solid, honest comic-strip thrills

SNAP VERDICT

'Cheesy American schmaltz'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

☐ *MICHAEL*

Damian Samuels, 19: Cheesy and unamusing American schmaltz. Be prepared to vomit.

Tim Thornton, 21: John Travolta really has come on over the years. This is an enthralling romp from start to finish.

Robert Peter Hunter, 20: A nauseating slice of American trivia. Proof that the pie really can have too much sugar.

Peder Jensen, 19: Very entertaining, but you will hate his wings.

☐ *GRACE OF MY HEART*

Damian: A fine film that gives you a chance to see the brilliant John Turturro act alongside Patsy Kensit.

Tim: An intriguing, funny and often charming film. Some good performances, but it lacked the emotional depth it needed at the climax.

Robert: This tale of heartbreak and happiness set against the backdrop of the American pop scene makes for an entertaining but unconvincing melodrama. After failing to live up to its initial promise, it delivers the usual happy ending.

Peder: The theme is a bit boring, but there are a lot of entertaining scenes and some good acting.

☐ *FLIRT*

Damian: A big pile of tedious dross that is 80 minutes too long. Far better to buy a can of paint and watch it dry.

Tim: I'm afraid that once again director Hal Hartley bored me senseless. A lukewarm plod without even a good explosion at the end. Let me know when it's finished.

Robert: A dull, lifeless trilogy that fails to entertain. I couldn't wait for it to end.

Peder: A really appalling movie. Every time it repeated itself, it became even more clichéd.

WINNER! 4 CESARS (FRENCH OSCARS) Best Film, Best Director | ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION Best Foreign Language Film

FANNY ARDANT CHARLES BERLING BERNARD GIRAUDEAU JUDITH GODRECHE JEAN ROCHEFORT

Ridicule 15

"INTELLIGENTly flamboyant and beautifully shot - A Triumph!" Guardian

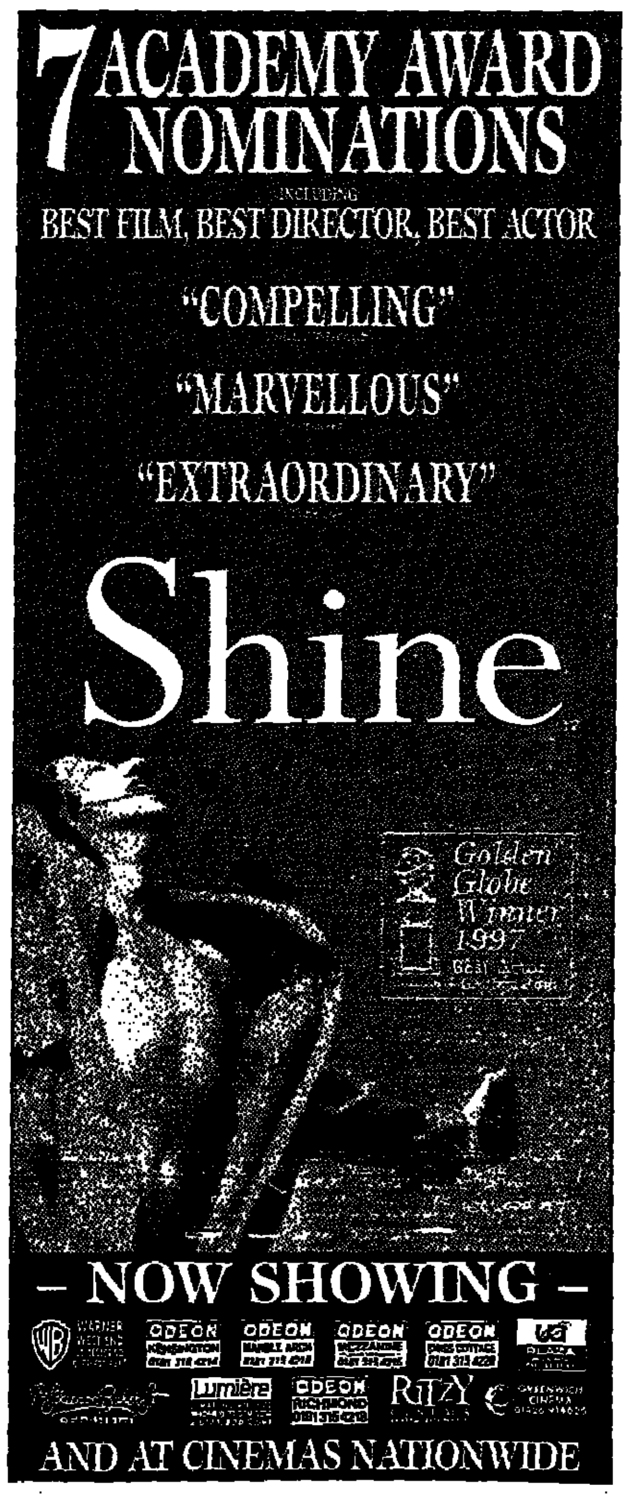
"VERBAL FIREWORKS and SUMPTUOUS COSTUMES make a FEAST for the senses" Sunday Telegraph

"BREATHTAKINGly daring, lavish to look at, finely acted and brilliantly directed" Scottish Herald

"GLORIOUSly sharp and intelligent" Barry Norman - Film '97

A film by PATRICE LECONTE

CURZON WEST END CHELSEA CINEMA GATE RITZY PHOENIX CORNERHOUSE



7 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING BEST FILM, BEST DIRECTOR, BEST ACTOR

"COMPELLING"

"MARVELLOUS"

"EXTRAORDINARY"

Shine

Golden Globe Winner 1997

– NOW SHOWING –

ODEON ODEON ODEON ODEON UCI Lumière ODEON RICHMOND RITZY

AND AT CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

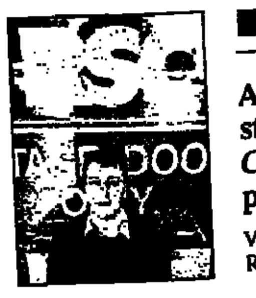
هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

■ CHOICE 1

Michael Tilson Thomas and the LSO come to grips with Debussy

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican



■ CHOICE 2

Adrian Noble's staging of *Cymbeline* previews in Stratford

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre

THE TIMES ARTS

■ NEW VIDEOS

Disney's cuddly cartoon adaptation of Victor Hugo, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, is released

■ NEW CDS

Conductor Valery Gergiev brings his thrilling touch to a new recording of Verdi's *La forza del destino*

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

LONDON

BARBICAN ART GALLERY: Two new exhibitions open today. **Modern Art in Britain 1910-1914** looks at the series of exhibitions of European modern art which introduced artists such as Cézanne, Gauguin and Van Gogh to Britain. The second exhibition assesses the careers of **Lucie Rie and Hans Coper: Potters in Parallel**. Both exhibitions will run until May 26.
Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Tue, 10am-5.45pm, Sun, noon-6.45pm

DEBUSSY — PAINTER OF DREAMS: Michael Tilson Thomas — who is renowned for his sensitive interpretations of Claude Debussy's music — conducts the **London Symphony Orchestra** in a three-concert series reflecting the essential Debussy. This evening's concert opens with the orchestral Nocturnes and includes the composer's majestic portrait of the sea, *La Mer*. With Andrew Marriner, clarinet, John Harle, alto saxophone, and Peter Mattei, baritone. The series continues on February 23 and concludes on February 27, and will be broadcast as part of BBC Radio 3's *Sounding the Century* festival.
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm.

THE SLOW DRAG: Kim Criswell and Nikki Slade in Carson Kreitzer's jazz play loosely based on the strange life of trumpeter Billy Tipton, a woman who masqueraded as a man in the 1930s in order to survive in the bands. Period music from a jazz quartet.
Freedom, 60 Wardour Street, W1 (0171-734 0122). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Tue-Thurs, 7pm; Fri and Sat, 7pm and 9.30pm. Until March 15.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Vladimir Ashkenazy makes his long-awaited debut solo piano recital at the Symphony Hall.
Symphony Hall, Broad Street (0121-212 3333). Tonight, 8pm. ◩

COVENTRY: George Costigan stars in Debbie Isitt's BT Biennial play, **Nasty Neighbours**. Produced by 100 amateur groups in 1995 and now directed by the author for a Snarling Beasties tour.
Arts Centre, University of Warwick (01203 524524). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm. Next in **Cheltenham**, Everyman (01242 572573), Feb 24-Mar 1: **Newcastle**, Playhouse (0191-232 3366), Mar 11-14.

STRATFORD: Joanne Pearce, Damian Lewis and Guy Henry in Adrian Noble's production of **Cymbeline**, a fascinating late play and something of a rarity.
Royal Shakespeare, Waterside (01789 295623). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Feb 26, 7pm. In rep.

Also in **Stratford**, Susannah York, Leslie Phillips, Peter Egan, Darrell d'Silva star in **Camino Real**, the first time the RSC has staged a Tennessee Williams play, and its first professional revival for 40 years. Casanova, Don Quixote and other legends gather at the edge of nowhere. Steven Pimlott directs.
Swan, Waterside (01789 295623). Previews begin tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Feb 27, 7pm. In rep.

LONDON GALLERIES

Alan Cristea: Michael Craig-Martin Prints (0171-439 1866) ... **Cadogan Contemporary**: Sarah Butterfield (0171-581 5451) ... **Curwen**: Bernard Dunstan (0171-636 1459) ... **European Academy/Accademia Italiana**: Sconfinamenti (Crossing Borders — Italian/British Visual Arts Exchange) (0171-235 0303) ... **Festival Hall**: Yoko Ono and the Fluxus Movement (0171-960 4242) ... **Harriet Green**: George Hayes (0171-287 8328) ... **Llewellyn Alexander**: William Ireland and Oliver Cant (0171-620 1322) ... **The London Institute**: Foundations for Fame (0171-514 6000) **Mall**: A Celebration of Life: David Wynne — 50 Years of Sculpture (0171-930 6844) ... **Tate**: Lovis Corinth (0171-887 8000)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **ART**: Albert Finney, Tom Courtenay and Ken Stott in an exceptionally interesting drama about friendship, unspoken resentment and an almost all-white canvas. Matthew Warchus directs.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, Sat and Sun, 5pm.

☐ **BACKPAY**: Hands try to reach across the South African black/white divide. Tamantha Hammerschlag's first play offers more in promise than present achievement.
Royal Court Theatre Upstairs (Circle), Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000). Mon-Sat, 7pm; mat Sat (Feb 22), 4pm. Until March 1.

☐ **EAST IS EAST**: Ayub Khan Din's sizzling drama, where six Salford Asian adolescents fret under their dad's discipline.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, E15 (0181-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat today, 3pm. Until March 8.

◩ **THE HOMECOMING**: Pinter's unnerving comedy, set in a north London house where David Bradley's bullying Max leads the struggle to possess his eldest son's wife (Lindsay Duncan). Roger Michell directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs and Sat, 2.15pm. In rep.

☐ **INHERITORS**: Francis Matthews, son Damien, and Lise Stevenson head a fine cast for Susan Glaspel's 1920s drama exploring the decline of American Frontier idealism. A play once described as worthy to rank alongside *The Master Builder*. Sam Walters directs.
Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Feb 24, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs (Feb 27, March 6, 13), 2.30pm, Sat 4pm. Until April 5.

☐ **THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES**: Peter Bowles both touching and comic as Molière's deluded hero. Eric Sykes excellent as his ficker-fingered servant. With Carmen Silvera. Peter Hall directs.
Piccadilly, Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 5pm.

◩ **SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE**: Subtitled "The Songs of Leiber and Stoller". Hit Broadway compilation show celebrating a successful songwriting team, responsible for *Hound Dog*, *Jailhouse Rock* and *Spanish Harlem*.
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

■ **THE WHITE DEVIL**: Gale Edwards's thrillingly erotic and violent production of Webster, up from Stratford, with Jane Gurnett, Ray Fearon and Richard McCabe.
Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0181-638 8891). Today, 2pm and 7.15pm. In rep.

☐ **WOMEN ON THE VERGE OF HRT**: Hit Irish comedy by Marie Jones, directed by Pam Brighton, with Marie Jones and Eileen Pollock as two women devoted to the singer Daniel O'Donnell, and Phelim Drew as the young waiter who answers their fantasies.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Now previewing, 7.45pm. Opens March 3, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800) ◩ **An Inspector Calls**: Garrick (0171-494 5085) ... ☐ **Jesus Christ Superstar**: Lyceum (0171-656 1807) ☐ **Jolson**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ... ◩ **Miss Saigon**: Drury Lane (0171-494 5400) ... ☐ **The Mousetrap**: St Martin's (0171-836 1443) ◩ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) ... ☐ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-416 6054)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

CONSPIRATORS OF PLEASURE: Eye-catching excursion into people's private obsessions from Czech surrealist Jan Svankmajer.
Everyman (0171-435 1525) **ICA Cinema** (0171-930 3647)

◆ **FIERCE CREATURES** (PG): Broad comedy in an English zoo, from John Cleese and *A Fish Called Wanda* team.
ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Empire** (0990-888 990) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◩ (0171-434 0031)

HAMLET (PG): Lavish, literal-minded Shakespeare, staged with some panache by Kenneth Branagh.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720)

◆ **HARRIET THE SPY** (PG): Precocious girl spies on friends and elders. Unattractive American family film, with Rosie O'Donnell.
UCI Whiteleys ◩ (0990 888990) **Virgin Trocadero** ◩ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **IN LOVE AND WAR** (15): Romantic drama from Richard Attenborough, based on Ernest Hemingway's wartime fling with a Red Cross nurse. With Sandra Bullock and Chris O'Donnell.
Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Warner West End** (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SHE'S THE ONE** (15): Amiable family comedy from Edward Burns. With Cameron Diaz, John Mahoney.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **West End** (0181-315 4221) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0990 888990)

TREES LOUNGE (15): Steve Buscemi's vibrant and amusing portrait of boring lives in a Long Island town.
ABCs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520) **Virgins: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527)

CURRENT

◆ **FLY AWAY HOME** (U): Endearing tale of orphaned Canada geese, with Anna Paquin and Jeff Daniels.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** ◩ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** (0171-437 4343)

HIS GIRL FRIDAY (U): Hard, fast newspaper comedy, vintage 1940, with Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell. Director, Howard Hawks.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721)

◆ **101 DALMATIANS** (U): Glenn Close knocks spots off the dogs in the live-action edition of the cartoon classic. With Jeff Daniels and Joely Richardson. Director, Stephen Herek.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (0181-315 4214) **Marble Arch** (0181-315 4216) **Mezzanine** ◩ (0181-315 4215) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0990 888990) **Virgins: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◩ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ◩ (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **SLEEPERS** (15): Reform school inmates avenge themselves on a sadistic guard. Overblown tale with an impressive cast (Kevin Bacon, Brad Pitt, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman).
Odeon Mezzanine ◩ (0181-315 4215) **Swiss Cottage** (0181-315 4220) **UCI Whiteleys** (0990-888 990) **Virgin Trocadero** ◩ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ◩ (0171-437 4343)

Quasimodo rings the changes

Appealing bells: the Disney cartoon version of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* has plenty of dramatic thrust

NEW ON VIDEO

■ THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

Buena Vista, U, 1996

VICTOR HUGO'S novel is not natural material for a cuddly, tuneful Disney cartoon, but there is enough dramatic thrust and fine animation to sweep you into the story of the deformed bell-ringer Quasimodo (voiced by Tom Hulce) and the iniquities of medieval Paris. Directors Gary Trousdale and Kirk Wise drive the film forward from the opening shot of Notre Dame poking above the clouds.

■ THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

Eureka, PG, 1923

TO confuse you, one enterprising company has dragged out the Lon Chaney silent version just as Disney's arrives in the stores. Universal let itself go, using 4,000 extras, massive sets, and all the arc lights in Hollywood. Yet without Chaney, the film would turn to stodge. His Quasimodo is a masterpiece of acting: the extraordinary make-up never obscures the character's pathetic emotions.

■ BEAUMARCHAIS

Artificial Eye, 15, 1996

THE French have a way with costume dramas. This one never hits the heights of *Cyrano de Bergerac*, but it is a pleasant trot through the life of the 18th-century author of *The Marriage of Figaro*, a dramatist, magistrate, philanderer, businessman and spy who earned public affection with outspoken comments about freedom. Fabrice Luchini gives an engaging performance, and if director Edouard Molinaro fails to find a unifying style, there is always Versailles to stare at.

■ LES DAMES DU BOIS DE BOULOGNE

Connoisseur, PG, 1945

NO director could be farther from current fashions than Robert Bresson, who peered into his characters' souls, pared down images to the bare essentials, used only non-professional actors and kept words brief. This early drama does not quite fit the pattern: the actors are professionals, and quite loquacious (dialogue is by Cocteau). But it still casts a spell; and it is hard to take your eyes off Maria Casarès as the spurned lover who plots revenge.

■ JANE EYRE

Fox Guild, PG, 1996

FRANCO ZEFFIRELLI, prettifier of famous plays and operas, now tackles Charlotte Brontë's novel, with mixed results. The surface detail is all present and correct, though we miss the feeling of Gothic anguish. Charlotte Gainsbourg is grave and collected as the older Jane; William Hurt capably suggests a Rochester eaten away by repression; and British dependables such as Joan Plowright and John Wood beef up the supporting cast. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

NEW CLASSICAL CDs: Celebrating Sibelius; the *Forza* is with Gergiev; joys of degeneracy

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ SIBELIUS
Choral works
Jubilate Choir/Riska
BIS CD 825★★ £14.99

THE latest world premiere recording of still more undiscovered Sibelius comes from Finland's fine Jubilate Choir, conducted by Astrid Riska, which presents the little-known song *Soitapas, soria likka (Play, beautiful girl)*, with its text from the *Kanteletar's* collection of folk poetry and with its strange, primitive tenor solo. The better known *Rakastava (The Lover)* is performed here in its version for choir with soprano (Monika Groop) and baritone (Sauli Tiilikainen) soloists.

There are still more graphic folk-song settings to be found in the Six Songs from Op 18, which also include Sibelius's spare, barely moving setting of the poet Aleksis Kivi's *Song of my Heart*, evoking Tuonela, the kingdom of the dead — better known in Sibelius for its famous swan.

A selection of Swedish-language songs are represented here, too, together with a fascinating fistful of Finnish nationalist and populist songs, including the mixed-choir version of the *Finlandia* hymn — all in readiness for the fortieth anniversary of Sibelius's death in September.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ VERDI
La forza del destino
Gorchakova/Borodina/Grigorian/Putilin/Kit/Kirov Orchestra/Gergiev
Philips 446 951-2 (3 CDs)★★★ £36.99

VALERY GERGIEV, hero of Covent Garden's current *Lohengrin*, turns with equal success to a very different opera, *Forza*. Verdi wrote it for St Petersburg before revising it substantially for La Scala, the version now almost universally accepted. But Gergiev, determined as ever to support his adopted city, goes for *Forza* Mark I. It may be raw in places but, under him, consistently thrilling.

The Petersburg *Forza* throws much weight on the tenor, who has to begin and end the lengthy third act in top form. Gegam Gregorian relishes the task. He has developed a true Italian throb to his delivery and turns Alvaro into a real Manrico-style hero. Nicolai Putilin, as his pursuer Carlo, has moments of unsteadiness but just the right adversarial style and the avenger's snarl. When the two meet in conflict, egged on by Gergiev, *Forza* really ignites.

Galina Gorchakova and Olga Borodina also know all about Verdi. Gorchakova's Leonora is full of pain as she takes up her hermit's existence, and Borodina's Preziosilla is equally full of exuberance as she urges on the troops in one of the best "Rataplans" on disc. Only Mikhail Kit's Guardiano is below par.

For those wanting the Scala version RCA's *Forza* under Levine, one of the most powerful rival sets, is reissued at mid-price next month.

CDs reviewed in *The Times* can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ KORNGOLD/WEILL/KRENEK
Violin Concertos
Juillet/Berlin Radio Symphony Orchestra/Mauceri
Decca 452 481-2★★★ £15.49

THE latest disc in Decca's *Entartete Musik* (Degenerate Music) series offers an inspiring choice of repertoire. Three violin concertos, all from the 1920s, provide striking manifestations of the multifaceted cultural matrix of those times that the Nazis were so anxious to smother.

The Korngold concerto, espoused by Heifetz, bursts with an ardour tinged with nostalgic longing. Chantal Juillet and John Mauceri, with the Berlin Radio SO, catch both the high spirits and the yearning in their full-blooded performance.

Kurt Weill's Concerto for Violin and Wind Orchestra is an altogether more astringent piece, neo-classical in style, and closer to Stravinsky's works of the period. It is an ideal palate-cleanser, though, and in many ways more characteristic of the time than the Korngold.

So too is the concerto by Ernst Krenek, born in the same year as Weill (1900) but surviving into the present decade. Here, virtuosity and angular but impassioned writing are to the fore, though there is also an appealing lyrical vein. Juillet is responsive to all these modes, and Mauceri and his orchestra give strong, idiomatic support.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 0171 632 8300 (24hr)
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Ton't 7.00
FIGARO'S WEDDING
Tomor 7.30
THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Office & Standby info
Tickets available on the day
The Royal Opera
Ton't 6.00, Sat 5.00
(Last Night) LOHENGRIN
Tomor 7.00 (First Night)
COSI FAN TUTTE

ANTIQUE & ART FAIRS

ANTIQUES FAIR
AVINGTON PARK
NR. WINCHESTER, HANTS
21 - 23 FEBRUARY
Quality dateline Fair
Organised by
Galloway Antiques
Fairs, N. Yorkshire
01423 324602

DANCE

SADLER'S WELLS at the PEACOCK THEATRE
0171 314 8800
PACO PENA FLAMENCO
DANCE COMPANY
"A virtuoso display" Ind
Until 1st Mar
inc Sun at 4pm

To advertise in this section please call the Entertainments Team on
0171 680 6222
or fax
0171 481 9313

THEATRES

ADELPHI
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
SUNSET
BOULEVARD
Starring
PETULA CLARK
24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS
CALL 344 0055 (bkg fee)
GRP BOOKING 413 3302 (bkg fee)
No booking fee for Adelphi Box Office Callers
Recorded information 0171 379 8884
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00
50 seats held at the box office from 12pm daily
MUST CLOSE 5TH APRIL

ALBERY THEATRE BO & cc 0171 369 1730 cc 344 4444, 312 5063 (No fees) Grps 413 3321, 312 5069, 436 5588. Previews from 14 April, Opens 17 April
GARY WILMOT ANN CRUMB
in
THE GOODBYE GIRL
A New Musical
Book by Neil Simon, Music by Marvin Hamlisch, Lyrics by David Zippel, Additional lyrics by Don Black Evgs Mon-Fri 8pm Wed Mat 3pm, Sats 5 & 8.30pm

Albery Theatre
0171 369 1740 (nc bkg fee)
Ticketmaster 344 4444 (bkg fee)
EDDIE IZZARD
NEIL MULLARKEY
STEPHEN FROST
SUKI WEBSTER
ONE WORD IMPROV
"One Word Improv is ab fab" Ind
Tue-Sun 3pm Until 16 Mar
Good seats still available on Sun's

ALDWYCH 0171 416 6003, cc bkg fee 344 4444 Grps 0800 614 903
DIANA RIGG DAVID SUCHET
in EDWARD ALBEE'S
WHO'S AFRAID OF
VIRGINIA WOOLF
Dir by Howard Davies
"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Std
Mon-Sat 7.15pm Sat Mat 2.15pm
LAST 5 WEEKS

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 0171 416 6055 cc 24hrs 0171 344 4444/0171 420 0000 Grps 416 6075/413 3321
Andrew Lloyd Webber's
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
THE FASTEST
SHOW ON EARTH
White knuckle runs 19 45 daily
Tue & Sat 3pm Tickets from £12.50

APOLLO 24hr cc 0171 494 5070
cc 0171 344 4444 (bkg fee)
Grps 0171 494 5454
BEN ELTON'S
POPCORN
Previews from 20 March

APOLLO THEATRE 0171 494 5072
0171 420 0000 (bkg fee)
FASCINATING AIDA
"Quite simply the tops" D Tel
FROM 4 MAR - 2 WEEKS ONLY

CAMBRIDGE 494 5080/416 6060
344 4444/420 0000 (+ bkg fee)
Groups 494 5454
416 6075/413 3321/436 5588
GREASE
"Fast, furious, thrilling & fun, fun, fun" D Mirror
TICKETS AVAILABLE APPLY DAILY TO BOX OFFICE
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat Mat 3pm

COMEDY THEATRE
0171 369 1731/0171 344 4444
Rob Morrow in
BIRDY
Previews from 26 Feb

CRITERION 369 1737/344 4444
BEST COMEDY
Laurence Olivier Award Nominee
REDUCED SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY in
THE COMPLETE WORKS
OF WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARE (abridged)
All 37 Plays in 97 Minutes
"Hilarious" Times
Mats Thur at 3, Sat at 5
Sun at 4, Eves at 8pm
THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF
AMERICA (abridged)
Tuesday at 8pm
SEASON EXTENDS TO MAY!

DOMINION 0171 656 1888/0990 204020/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6098/312 1997 [illegible]
The Magic comes alive on stage
DISNEY'S
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
A NEW MUSICAL
Previews from Apr 29 now booking

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL
SS cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 0171 494 5000/344 4444/420 0000 Grps 494 5454/413 3311/312 8000
MISS SAIGON
"THE CLASSIC LOVE STORY OF OUR TIME"
NOW IN ITS
8TH EXTRAORDINARY YEAR!
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
Good seats avail for Wed Mat & some perfs - apply B.O.
FOR TELEPHONE, POSTAL BOOKINGS & PERSONAL CALLERS
0171 494 5060 (BKG FEE)

DUCHESS cc 0171 494 5075 cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee) 420 0000 (bkg fee) 0171-413 3321 Eves 8pm Wed mat 3pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30
"A SAUCY COMEDY" E Std
DON'T DRESS
FOR DINNER
"Gloriously Outrageous" T Out
LAST 2 WEEKS
of 6 YEAR RUN
prior to Worldwide Tour

DUCHESS 0171 494 5075 no cc (no bkg fee)
MAUREEN LIPMAN
LIVE & KIDDING
From 4 March - 24 PERFS ONLY

FORTUNE BO & CC 0171 836 2238/312 5330
EWAN HOOPER JAMES SIMMONS
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"The most thrilling and chilling play for years" D Mail
NOW IN ITS 8TH YEAR
Mon-Sat 8pm
Mats Tues 3pm Sat 4pm
Running time 2hrs

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS
Tel: 0171 680 6222
or fax: 0171 481 9313

GARRICK 0171 494 5085/312 1990 (no bkg fee)
WINNER OF
19 MAJOR AWARDS
The Royal National Theatre Production
PIP DONAGHY SUZANNE BERTISH
BARRY STANTON
JB Priestley's
AN INSPECTOR CALLS
"THRILLING...MUST BE SEEN" D Mail
"TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLING, VISUALLY STUNNING DRAMA" D Tel
Mon-Fri 7.45 Sat 5.00 & 8.15
Wed mat 2.30

GIELGUD 0171 494 5557/420 0000
Grps 494 5454/420 0200
ROMANCE, ROMANCE
Two New Musicals
So good, they named it twice
Don't Miss Don't Miss!
Previews from 27 February

HAYMARKET 930 8800 (no bkg fee)
344 4444/420 0000 (with bkg fee)
Mon-Sat 7.45pm Mats Thur & Sat 3pm
JESSICA LANGE
"MAGNIFICENT" NoW
TOBY STEPHENS IMOGEN STUBBS
Tennessee Williams'
A STREETCAR
NAMED DESIRE
directed by Peter Hall
"UNFORGETTABLE" S.Tms

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 344 4444/420 0000 (fee) Grps 494 5454/413 3311/436 5588
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF
THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
NOW BKG TO DEC 97
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LABATT'S APOLLO, 0171 416 6050/420 0000/344 4444 (fee) 416 6075/436 5588 (grps, fee)
CLIFF RICHARD
in
HEATHCLIFF
"Spectacular, stunning" D Mail
Mon - Sat 8pm

LONDON PALLADIUM BO/CC 0171 494 5020/344 4444 (£1 bkg serv chg) 420 0000 Grps 0171 420 0200
"A MAJOR THEATRICAL EVENT" Mail
"ROBERT LINDSAY'S FAGIN IS FULL OF CHARM, WARMTH & GLEEFUL CRIMINALITY. HE'S A HOOT" D Exp
IN
OLIVER!
3RD IRREPRESSIBLE YEAR
"LIONEL BART'S MASTERPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE"
S.Times
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
SOME GOOD SEATS AVAIL NOW FOR WEEKDAY PERFS

LYCEUM cc 0171 656 1808
0990 500 800/344 4444/420 0000 (bkg fee) Grps 416 6076
TIM RICE &
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
JESUS CHRIST
SUPERSTAR
"Sends Shivers Racing Down The Spine" D Telegraph
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
(no bkg fee for personal callers at the Lyceum box office 10am-8pm)
£15 tickets for students avail Mon-Thu are bookable in advance
Now booking to September
Some seats avail at door Mon - Thu

LYRIC 0171 494 5045
cc 420 0100/344 4444 (bkg fee)
"THE MOST UNPRETENTIOUSLY ENJOYABLE SHOW IN LONDON" Tms
BY JEEVES
THE ALAN AYCKBOURN & ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER MUSICAL
"...HAD THE AUDIENCE BUCKLING UP WITH LAUGHTER" Ind
Eves 7.45 Mats Weds & Sat 3pm
Concessions available
MUST CLOSE SAT
Prior to National Tour

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 0171 928 2252 Grps 0171 620 0741, 24hr cc bkg fee 0171 420 0000.
Please allow extra journey/parking time because of major roadworks
OLIVIER Ton't, Tomor 7.15 GUYS AND DOLLS Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser. Book by Jo Swerling & Abe Burrows
LYTTELTON Today 2.15 & 7.30, Tomor 7.30 THE HOMECOMING Harold Pinter
COTTESLOE Today 2.30 & 7.30 LIGHT SHINING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Caryl Churchill Tomor 7.30 CARDIFF EAST a new play by Peter Gill

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 BO 0171 405 0072 CC 0171 404 4079
24hr 0171 344 4444/420 0000
Grps 0171 413 3311/436 5588
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER/T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE.

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616
24hrs 420 0000 (no bkg fee)
The Peter Hall Company
From March 4 WASTE by Harley Granville Barker
with Peter Blythe, Anna Carteret, Alan Dobie, Peter Gordon, Greg Hicks, Felicity Kendal, Olga Lowe, Michael Pennington, Jenny Quayle, Denis Quilley, Clare Swinburne, Dominic West, Andrew Woodall, David Yelland.
From March 10 CLOUD NINE by Caryl Churchill with
Marion Bailey, Janine Duvitski, Tim McInnerny, Stephen Noonan, Clare Swinburne, Dominic West, Andrew Woodall
From March 23 HURLYBURLY by David Rabe with
Daniel Craig, Susannah Doyle, Rupert Graves, Kelly Macdonald, Elizabeth McGovern, Andy Serkis. 7 days a week/10 perfs. a week/12 plays in repertory, Mon-Sun at 7.30. Thu & Sat mats 2.30 Sun at 2.30 or 4.00
Tickets £10 - £19

OLD VIC 0171 928 7616 - cc 420 0000 (no bkg fee)
TIMOTHY WEST SAMUEL WEST
and GARY WALDHORN
HENRY IV
PARTS I and II
"...a masterpiece" D Tel
"A resounding success" S.Tel
Mon-Sat 7.30, Fri & Sat mat 3.00
Until 22 Feb

PALACE THEATRE 0171-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 0171-344 4444 (bkg fee) Grps 0171 413 3311
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
NOW IN ITS 12TH
RECORD-BREAKING YEAR
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO/CC 0171 369 1733/344 4444/420 0000 (fee)
BEST MUSICAL
Olivier/Drama Awards
Plays & Players/Ivor Novello Awards
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
10TH TRIUMPHANT YEAR
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3pm Sat 4pm
NOW BOOKING UNTIL JAN'98

PICCADILLY 0171 369 1734
344 4444/420 0000 (24 hrs)
Eves 8, Mats Wed 3 & Sat 5
THE PETER HALL COMPANY
PETER BOWLES
CARMEN SILVERA HENRY McGEE
ERIC SYKES
in Molière's hilarious comedy
THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES
"POSITIVELY GLITTERING... THIS IS AS GOOD AS IT GETS" D Mail

PRINCE OF WALES 0171 839 5987
First Call 420 0000 cc 344 4444 Grps 420 0200 Keephone/0800 614903
2 OLIVIER AWARD NOMINATIONS INCLUDING
OUTSTANDING MUSICAL
PRODUCTION
"HOT FROM BROADWAY, AND I MEAN SMOKIN', ENOUGH ENERGY TO ELECTRIFY A CITY." D Mail
GRAMMY AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE
THE SONGS OF LEIBER & STOLLER
Directed by Jerry Zaks
"AMERICAN GRAFFITI MEETS WEST SIDE STORY" E. Std
Mon-Sat 8pm, Thu & Sat Mats 3pm
NOW BKG TO JAN 1998

PRINCE EDWARD 0171 447 5400
First Call 420 0100 cc 344 4444
Groups 420 0200
WINNER
BEST CHOREOGRAPHER
BEST NEW MUSICAL
LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS
"REAL POWER & PASSION A BLOCKBUSTER" D. Tel
"A BIG MAGNIFICENT EPIC MUSICAL. A GREAT EVENING OUT" S Times
MARTIN GUERRE
BOUBLIL & SCHONBERG'S
"MUSICAL MASTERPIECE"
Int Her Trib
Mon-Sat 7.45 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00
NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1998

QUEEN'S (bkg fee) 494 5040/344 4444 Grps 494 5454/436 5588
GENE WILDER
in NEIL SIMON'S
LAUGHTER ON
THE 23rd FLOOR
"Funniest night out in London"
News Of The World
Eves 8pm, Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm
LAST 2 WEEKS
MUST END 1 MARCH

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY
LONDON (0171 638 8891)
BARBICAN
AS YOU LIKE IT Today 2.00 & 7.15
THE PIT. THE WHITE DEVIL
Today 2.00 & 7.15
STRATFORD (01789 295623/ cc 0171 413 1452)
RST. CYMBELINE Ton't 7.30
SWAN. CAMINO REAL Ton't 7.30
TOP: MYSTERIA
Today 12 noon - 7.30

ROYAL COURT 0171 565 5000 cc 420 0100 (24hrs) Downstairs (Duke of Yorks, St Martin's Lane) THE SHALLOW END by Doug Lucie Mon-Sat 7.30 Sat mat 3.30, 8 & 15 Mar. Upstairs (Ambassadors, West St) BACKPAY by Tamantha Hammerschlag Mon-Sat 7.00, Sat mat 4.00 22 Feb, until 1 Mar. COCKROACH, WHO? by Jess Walters Mon-Sat 8.45, Sat mat 4.00 1 Mar until 1 Mar.

ST MARTIN'S 0171 836 1443 Eves 8, Tue 2.45, Sat 5 & 8
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP
45th YEAR

STRAND THEATRE Box Off & cc (no fee) 0171 930 8800
cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/420 0000
Groups 0171 413 3321/0171 436 5588
"BUDDY"
The Buddy Holly Story
"BRILLIANT" Sun
"BUDDY"
"WONDERFUL STUFF" Sun Tel
"BUDDY"
Tues-Thurs 8.00 Fri 5.30 & 8.30
Sats 5.00 & 8.30 Sunday 4.00
ALL SEATS 1/2 PRICE FRI 5.30 PERF
8th ELECTRIFYING YEAR
Now booking 'til October 4

VAUDEVILLE 0171 836 9987 (no bkg fee) cc 420 0000 (bkg fee)
THE NEW IRISH HIT COMEDY!
WOMEN ON
THE VERGE OF
HRT
by Marie Jones
Now Previewing at 7.45pm

VICTORIA PALACE BO & cc (no fee) 0171 834 1317 cc (bkg fee) 0171 344 4444/312 1998/420 0000
Groups 0171 312 1995 /0171 436 5588 (no fee)
WINNER
1996 OLIVIER AWARDS
BEST MUSICAL
"JOLSON"
WITH BRIAN CONLEY
"A RESOUNDING HIT"
Sunday Telegraph
Evgs. Tues to Sat 7.30, Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 Extra special ½ price mat Thurs at 3.00 starring
Allan Stewart
5 weeks till London engagement ends prior to World Tour.

WYNDHAMS 369 1736/344 4444
BEST COMEDY
Eve Standard Awards
"ART"
BEST COMEDY
Laurence Olivier Awards
A new play by Yasmina Reza
Trans. by Christopher Hampton
"Fly, swim or skate just to see it" New York Times
Eves 8, Mats Wed 3, Sat & Sun 5

To advertise in this section please call the Entertainments Team on
0171
680 6222
or fax
0171
481 9313

THE SELL-OUT SUCCESS CONTINUES...
TRANSFERS TO THE APOLLO THEATRE FOR
13 PERFORMANCES ONLY
4 - 15 MARCH
FASCINATING
AIDA
0171 494 5072

■ THEATRE 1

The Young Vic stages an impressive revival of David Mamet's modern masterpiece, *American Buffalo*

■ THEATRE 2

The treachery of Benedict Arnold is the subject of Richard Nelson's play, *The General from America*

THE TIMES

ARTS

■ COMEDY 1

It was hit and miss in the laughs department when Sandra Bernhard played the Leicester festival

■ COMEDY 2

... while Frank Kelly, aka Father Jack, brought out too many old favourites in his Dublin stand-up

THEATRE: A worthy revival of Mamet's modern masterpiece on men and morals. Plus, Richard Nelson's latest

Life, the universe and everything

MARILYN KINGWILL

Bob (Neil Stuke), Teach (Douglas Henshall) and Don (Nicholas Woodeson) in Lindsay Posner's revival of David Mamet's brilliant and touching *American Buffalo*

Masterpieces do not have to be big and important and very clearly about the moral nature of the universe. They can involve an old tramp and two brothers or, as here, three petty criminals with rather less than the cumulative skills of the Gang Who Couldn't Shoot Straight. Both Pinter's *Caretaker* and David Mamet's *American Buffalo* look, sound and feel weightless; but they end up tipping your emotional and mental scales more than plays with ten times more obvious avoirdupois. They seem to involve nothing special, and are actually about friendship, betrayal and, yes, the moral nature of the universe.

American Buffalo
Young Vic

This is the third major revival of *Buffalo* in London and, although Lindsay Posner's production misses a trick or two, it is as well worth seeing as those that brought Jack Shepherd to the National and Al Pacino to the West End. The scene is a Chicago junkshop that, thanks to Joanna Parker's harum-scarum set, makes ordinary tat and muddle look like Christie's on Sunday. Don, the owner, plans to send Bob, his ex-junkie gofer, to break into a coin-collector's house and steal an antique nickel he has sold for what may be too little. But Teach, a hustler on his uppers, persuades Don that he is the more experienced, effective burglar, and robs Bob of his big chance.

So what? When Mamet wrote the play in 1975 he was, he said, "angry about the great and small betrayals and ethical compromises called American business". And it's true that the characters earnestly talk of crime as "business", thereby ridding it of dishonourable connotations and obliquely suggesting that business itself may be a form of crime. But Mamet is not a latter-day Dreiser itching to trim the capitalist jungle. He is more interested in asking whether friendship, a word much used in the play, is just sentimental cover for opportunism and greed.

That's a good question, for one of the play's successes is its use of the rough, scabrous idiom of Mamet's native Illinois. Language, you feel, is street armour, the means by which people ensure that their front-line emotions go into action safely camouflaged. To call your victim a four-letter word is to deny him humanity and make fleecing him a positive virtue. Conversely, Teach's more sententious, sanctimonious diction — "loyalty, you know how I am on this, this is great, this is admirable" — is a way of disorientating, ingratiating, manipulating, and evading threats to his faltering self-esteem.

The burglary is aborted because the ace criminal slated as helper (and Posner quite misses the humour of this) ends up being mugged. But Douglas Henshall's Teach convinces himself that this failure is the result of a conspiracy involving Neil Stuke's fumbling, flummoxed Bob, and gradually he sucks Nicholas Woodeson's genial Don into the dark, paranoid world he inhabits. Henshall's acting is excellent: comically hyperthyroid, packed with manic energy and febrile anger, but catching the confusion and desperation beneath.

The plot is subtle, but the denouement is clear. Bob has not betrayed Don: quite the opposite. The world is not exclusively peopled by cavemen and cannibals, as Teach believes. Affection and friendship can survive down there, amid the lower depths of Darwinian Chicago. In the most unpretentious of settings Mamet has raised the most basic of questions — do human values exist? — and answered with a cautious, touching, "yes".

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Innocent of solid evidence

Richard Nelson has written several plays for the Royal Shakespeare Company that explore the awkward details of Anglo-American relations, and here he tackles a theme set during the most obvious declaration of difference, the conflict known variously as the War of the American Rebellion and the War of American Independence.

The general of the title is Benedict Arnold who, truly almost single-handed, won the Battle of Saratoga but subsequently tried to hand over West Point, with General George Washington in it, to the British. For Americans, his name is down in the deepest pit, alongside that of Judas.

The General from America
Barbican Pit

Why Arnold resorted to treachery has never been satisfactorily explained, nor does Nelson do so here. In fact, he does less, dramatising some of the circumstances of the man's position (poverty, resentment, a young wife infatuated with English fashion), yet not finding a way to delve deeply into the murk of his nature. It is not enough to argue that this illustrates the complexity of history.

Remembering some of the coolish reviews the play received at its Stratford premiere last summer, I was happily surprised to find how much of this London transfer I enjoyed. Nelson is able to carry his audience in one direction — for instance, allowing us to suspect that the wife (Jo McInnes: good performance) is coquettishly unfaithful — and then abruptly turn the situation around to give us an insight into what has really been going on. He writes sharply etched scenes to provide a social background, but does not give us Arnold's background.

James Laurenson's performance emphasises a blustering element in Arnold, but in what should have been the crucial scene of signing an oath of loyalty he is not given the necessary material. Howard Davies's production does get the balance of performances right, so that a sense of one nation awkwardly in the making and another complacently confident comes vividly across. This is seen most acutely in the contrast between Corin Redgrave's wearily understanding Washington and the British spy, John Andre (Adam Godley), a fatuous officer promoted beyond his merits because he is the love-object (can this be correct?) of John Woodvine's Sir Henry Clinton. The performances feel right, but something is missing from the play.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Answer to why on Ross

Nick Ross is not the first person who would come to mind if one was asked to guess which broadcaster was storming the carpeted corridors of Broadcasting House, demanding the head of the Controller of Radio 4. But one or two newspaper stories this week have suggested that Ross is about to jump ship, apparently enraged by the "revolution" being proposed by James Boyle, the said Controller. The rumour factory is now working nights and weekends to keep up with Rossery.

My own belief is less exciting. I do not think that Ross has contemplated jumping ship, but I do think that he will vacate the cabin he has occupied for a decade, the one with a brass plate labelled **Call Nick Ross** on the door. The real reason for Ross's discontentment says much about BBC Radio and, in particular, Radio 4.

RADIO

For a long time, Ross has wanted more say in choosing the subject of his weekly phone-in. Producers take ultimate responsibility for content, therefore Ross's producer, Anne Peacock, expects to decide the subject, with or without Ross's approval. The recent difficulties arose because Ross wants a heavier, more political content, whereas Peacock believes the programme needs a broad brush. Clearly, Ross has one eye on the coming general election. As soon as that is called, *Call Nick Ross* becomes *Election Call* and Ross will not be presenting that.

Producer-presenter relationships are not easy, and not all of them operate in the same way. Some are more collegiate on subject-matter than others. The *Moral Maze* panel, for example, attends a dinner the night before each broadcast with the producer, David Coomes, although it is extremely rare for the subject to be changed so near to transmission.

The Ross kerfuffle is essentially a little local difficulty, which will be resolved this week. Ross will probably say tomorrow that he will leave the show at the end of its present run. Reports that Ross, who will be 50 soon, is miffed at not being considered a political heavyweight at the BBC may have some truth, but the notion that he is a victim of the Boyle era is way off the mark.

A fool and the Radio 4 audience are soon parted, and Boyle is no fool. He has announced a "review" of Radio 4 programming over the next three years, but that is hardly a revolution: change or die is as valid a maxim in radio as elsewhere.

PETER BARNARD

COMEDY: Leicester scoops a star who disappoints; plus an Irish generation gap opens up

Easy meat for a bird of prey

Sandra Bernhard
De Montfort Hall, Leicester

When you consider that she started out so explosively as the demented foil to Robert De Niro in *The King of Comedy*, it seems a little depressing that Sandra Bernhard has yet to progress beyond an undemanding supporting role in *Roseanne*.

Surely she was born for better things than that. There is a raw, reckless energy in those jolie-laide features — that face must be one of Mother Nature's early attempts at creating Julia Roberts — and she is a much, much better singer than her old friend, Madonna.

When she appeared at the Festival Hall two years ago, Bernhard came with a full band in tow. This time, flying in for an exclusive appearance at the Leicester Comedy Festival, she was accompanied only by a keyboard player whose sniggering punctuated every sentence.

His mirth was understandable. Bernhard can be scorchingly funny, especially on her favourite topic of life behind the smoked glass of the celebrity's stretch limo. Too often, though, the humour is dissipated amid ill-focused bouts of sarcasm that alight on the easiest of prey: Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, Liam Gallagher's love-life.

Renaming the Spice Girls the MSG Girls "because they make you dizzy and nauseous" is not exactly the cutting edge of satire. If your target is as trivial as Paula Yates, there is no point in reaching for the napalm.

Born for better things: the reckless Sandra Bernhard

Her assault on the Courtney Love-Kurt Cobain love affair, executed with anguished segues into *A Taste of Honey*, contained much more subtlety. She also enjoyed tweaking her audience's political sensibilities as she dipped a toe into the murky waters of Asian and Jewish stereotypes.

The self-indulgences are all the more frustrating because she is otherwise very adept at exploiting her insider-outsider status. She plays the bratty Hollywood nonconformist — a Ruby Wax with talent and even worse manners — who accepts an invitation to a fancy Beverly Hills party yet regularly slips outside to tell the gawking crowds how crass and slobbish all the stars are. Then, of course, she disappears again, back through the gilded door.

On television later that night Bernhard popped up again, declaring to a chat show host that she is tired of talking about Madonna. Yet on the stage, she was drawn back to that particular subject again and again, mocking her newly acquired English accent and her equally new expanses of cleavage.

At the back of Bernhard's mind, perhaps, there lay the uncomfortable thought that she, and not the Material Girl, was the one playing in Leicester that evening. Life never is fair.

CLIVE DAVIS

Schlock of the old

Frank Kelly has every right to be proud of his comic achievements, the latest and best known of which, the gangrenous-looking monosyllabic cleric, Father Jack in the television series *Father Ted*, is not even his funniest. Over a long career, Kelly has been responsible for some magnificent laughter rooted in wild, winking caricatures and ludicrous satires of Irish life. Far less laudable, however, is Kelly's decision to build much of his current stand-up show on material which is clearly part of that past.

His audience at the Olympia resembled a panto, rather than a comedy crowd, with generation-spanning family groups, rather than the familiar rabble of beery twenty and thirtysomethings. But even if banks of grannies and grandchildren had come for a winter outing, it was mildly irritating to be told, in mid-February, that it is still almost the festive season, particularly by way of an excuse for wheeling out Kelly's great Christmas hit.

Frank Kelly
Olympia Theatre, Dublin

The Twelve Days of Christmas is the comedian's painfully funny story of what happens when a charming Irish girl decides to send all the items mentioned in the Christmas song to her true love, leaving the recipient a broken man and his mother a Valium-chewing alcoholic. An hilarious epistolary account of the ultimate awful Yuletide, the piece has been a pleasure to hear at the end of many years. It is not, however, good for every occasion. There seems more than a world, and certainly more than a couple of decades, between Kelly's humour and that of younger Irish comedy workers, such as Dylan Moran or Kelly's *Father Ted* co-star, Ardal O'Hanlon. Where the comedy of the younger generation lets personality do most of the work, Kelly's relies heavily on jokes with beginnings, middles and ends, often knitted together with the patter of a stiff MC.

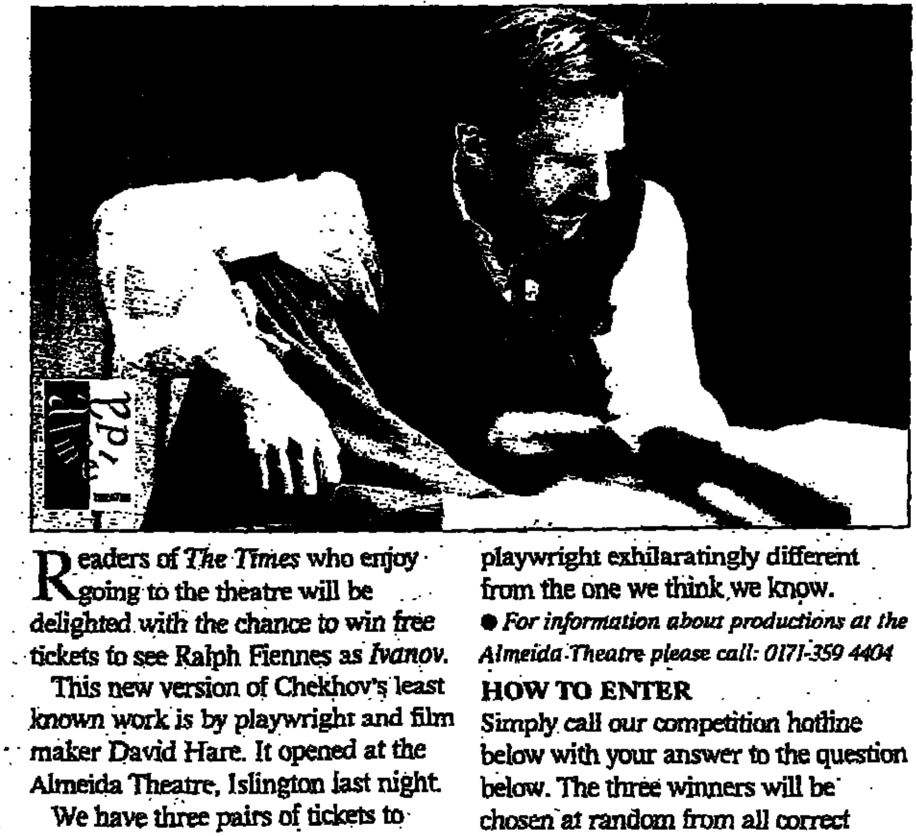
This would not necessarily be a problem if the gags were not so obviously topical jokes and spoofs from many years ago. Any comic is making life hard for himself towards the end of the 1990s if he tries to get laughs from the antiquated figure of firefighter Red Adair, and even more bizarrely from the Charismatic Movement — a religious revival at its height about 20 years ago.

Things go little better when Kelly attempts to incorporate something new which makes explicit reference to his *Father Ted* role. The resulting "song" is a strained, uninspired revue number, the creaky nature of which is in no way hidden by the ritual incantation of Father Jack's catchphrases — or rather words — "drink", "girls", or even "arse".

LUKE CLANCY

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win tickets to see *Ivanov* at the Almeida Theatre



Readers of *The Times* who enjoy going to the theatre will be delighted with the chance to win free tickets to see Ralph Fiennes as *Ivanov*.

This new version of Chekhov's least known work is by playwright and film maker David Hare. It opened at the Almeida Theatre, Islington last night.

We have three pairs of tickets to give away for the evening of Wednesday, April 9, 1997. The tickets are in the centre of the front row of the circle.

Ivanov is the fierce and funny portrait of a man whose life is plummeting fast into domestic chaos. By turns despairing and passionate, it offers insight into a young playwright exhilaratingly different from the one we think we know.

AT&T

● *For information about productions at the Almeida Theatre please call: 0171-359 4404*

HOW TO ENTER

Simply call our competition hotline below with your answer to the question below. The three winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. The line will remain open until midnight on Sunday, February 23, 1997. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

What is Chekhov's first name?

a) Leo b) Anton c) Boris

CALL 0839 44 45 46

Calls cost 50p per minute

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الأصل

She was a maiden city, bright and free

Michael Levey loses himself among the Renaissance spoils of an Italian architectural jewel

MADRID BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

God-appointed but man-directed, destined to last for eternity: Antenor, said to be Venice's founding father — *Antenor Founds a City* from Guido delle Colonne, *Historia Troiana*

VENICE & ANTIQUITY
By Patricia Fortini Brown
Yale, £45
ISBN 0 300 06700 3

This reviewer's first duty is to issue a warning about some of the photographs of Venice included in this book, beginning with that reproduced on its jacket. They are so explicit in their evocation of the city, and so beguiling therefore, that anyone might pass hours in perusal of them without giving any attention to the text.

That is not intended as a reflection on the author. Indeed, as it happens, the memorable; half-melancholy and wholly appropriate jacket photograph, a view in misty silhouette from the Piazzetta and the column of San Teodoro towards the Giudecca and the Church of the Redentore (*misidentified as San Giorgio Maggiore*) is credited to her.

Her book is subtitled *The Venetian Sense of the Past*, which is not only a closer definition of her theme (since Christianity is also involved) but provides a justification — assuming one is needed — for poring over photographs which support and even add evidence of that sense. Altogether, the book has been most beautifully, and fittingly, designed. What emerges from the skilful combination of words and illustrations is the consistent power of Venice to assimilate spoils from West and East, and — like some aquatic bowerbird — to keep titivating its nest down the centuries, well beyond the point, in fact, where this book stops. Thus, visual reinforcement was given to the myth of the city as uniquely marvellous and mysterious, God-appointed but man-directed, destined to last for eternity. Essential to that concept was its serene, unchanging, republican status and ethos, and it would have helped the general reader to be reminded categorically of how Venice survived intact in 16th-century Italy while Rome was sacked and Florence shortly afterwards cruelly compelled to surrender as a republic and become a Medici dukedom.

The very corporate nature of Venice, where the individual tended to be subsumed in both government and society, is just one of several difficulties Professor Brown's theme confronts. Venice is not the city we think of first in connection with revival of classical antiquity, and then, unlike the glamorously wicked women of late Victorian drama, she lacked a past — at least in terms of a classical antique past.

But it is precisely in the difficulties of the subject where Venice is concerned, the inevitable complexity, and an inherent elusiveness, that Professor Brown has seen — and seized — a brilliant opportunity. Already the author of a book on Carpaccio and narrative painting of his period in Venice, she knows the city well. Some of the fascination of her present work arises from the unexpected, often bizarre, occasionally light-hearted and thoroughly idiosyncratic ways in which antiquity was interpreted and utilised there, adding evidence of what can only be defined as "*venezianita*".

Perhaps the sheer complexity of the subject caused the author to approach it from various angles to examine various facets. She ranges very freely, from topics like the consciousness of time to the fabrication of the past for personal or civic purposes, always with an acute eye for the visual implications. Chronologically, as in choice of artefacts, she ranges widely too: from an early relief at Torcello to Sansovino's familiar Loggetta at the base of the campanile of San Marco, and nearby, the exuberant bronze flag pole socket-bases sculpted by Alessandro Leopardi.

Yet, although she compares her approach to a tapestry, the general effect is akin more to a series of samplers in *petit-point*. No grand, overall sweep is apparent, and the book breaks down into short, detailed essays, all of interest and all of earnest, impressive scholarship, but some distinctly tangential. I detected a certain strain in the introduction of celebrated non-Venetian figures such as Petrarch, Cyriacus of Ancona and Mantegna, and I can't help wondering whether Jacopo Bellini's sketchbooks display more than a whimsical interest in classical motifs. It seems odd of the author to end her book virtually in mid-Renaissance, with little said about Palladio and not even a glance at one of the greatest pictorial propagators of Venetian myth, the painter also of magnificent recreations of classical mythology, Paolo Veronese.

But Professor Brown deserves to be applauded for successfully bringing many aspects of a challenging theme into admirably sharp focus. Formidably erudite as her book is, it is lucidly written, consistently stimulating and warmed by unmistakable affection for the city of its title. Literate but non-expert people who share that affection should not fight shy of the book, for reading it can only deepen their feeling. Ultimately, and touchingly, it takes its place as one more among innumerable tributes to the spell Venice casts, has long cast and — let us hope — will long continue to cast.

Far from the married crowd

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

HIS ARMS ARE FULL OF BROKEN THINGS
By P. B. Parris
Viking, £16
ISBN 0 670 87315 2

LITERARY biography is a fashionable industry nowadays. But to recreate the life of a poet as a novel seems a bold project. Reality may indeed be as strange as fiction, but it lacks its tightly structured artifice, the convenient twists of contrivance which tauten a plot. And poets, in particular, make difficult subjects. They have already expressed with uniquely idiosyncratic power the ideas and emotions which clothe a narrative. Perhaps it is telling that Penelope Fitzgerald, acclaimed for *The Blue Flower*, a fictionalised account of Novalis's life, should have chosen straightforward biography when she came to the poet Charlotte Mew.

P. B. Parris is more daring — or more foolhardy, perhaps. As a culmination of a 15-year fascination for Mew she decides to use this poet's own voice to tell her life story. *His Arms Are Full of Broken Things* is the fictional autobiography of a neglected writer, a tiny bird-like woman, customarily dressed in her father's cut-down clothes, who was described by Virginia Woolf as "the greatest living poetess". Thomas Hardy — with whom she was infatuated — believed her to be the only writer of his times who would be remembered after her death.

Mew's life of bridled and frustrated passions, culminating in her suicide at the age of 59, lends itself to the storyteller's art. Born into the claustrophobic propriety of a Victorian family, she witnessed the slide of her brother and one of her sisters into madness and eventual incarceration in lunatic asylums. She and her remaining sister took a vow never to get married, never to pass their "bad blood" on. Charlotte remained a virgin until the end of her life, finding an outlet for cruelly confused emotions in her exquisitely delicate but ardent verse.

Frustrated passions: Mew

Parris is at her best when recreating Mew's childhood. She captures well the skittering hopscotch imagination and wilful passions of the detached yet rebellious little girl who secretly exults in wearing scarlet stockings under sensible black boots. But when Parris turns to Mew's adult life a tension between a self-conscious concern to explain and to incorporate facts within the necessary fabrications of fiction, jars. Although the novel carefully sketches a portrait of contemporary literary life — the infamous *Little Yellow Book*, bohemian gatherings, and the difficulties encountered by a woman poet fighting for recognition in a male-dominated world — the first person narrative often frames these things unconvincingly.

WHERE Parris is most interesting is where she takes things a step further than Mew's biographer, Penelope Fitzgerald, and surmises that Mew had a love affair with Hardy — albeit an unconsummated one. It is indeed true that Hardy kept a copy of one of her poems on his desk and that Mew visited him and his second wife Florence at Max Gate. Parris coyly suggests that much of Hardy's melancholic verse was inspired by his love for Mew, and that she formed a model for Sue Bridehead in *Jude the Obscure*.

Though for some this will seem just another brazen assumption in a novel which is already too conjectural, the story of this sad and neglected poet is still moving enough to transcend any awkwardness in the telling and to carry the reader through to the end.

From clothes-horse to Trojan horse

Madeleine Ginsburg

FORTIES FASHION AND THE NEW LOOK
By Colin McDowell
Bloomsbury, £20
ISBN 0 7475 3032 7

THE CUTTING EDGE
Fifty Years of British Fashion
Edited by Amy de la Haye
V&A Publications, £25
ISBN 1 85177 194 8

It is 50 years, almost to the day, since the world press promoted the first postwar Paris fashion *diktat* and the New Look was suddenly upon us. Announced in the spring collections of 1947, it was heralded at the Paris showrooms of Christian Dior by the clang of falling ashtrays, sent flying by the new-style, full-length skirts of swirling models, parading for a fashion press both delighted and aghast at so sudden a departure from austerity to extravagance.

Hem lengths were not the only thing to alter. 1947 saw a boom in the market for all luxury goods and blessed by an increasingly powerful media, a model could change from being a clothes-horse to becoming a Trojan horse — the glamorous promotional front for a variety of industries. Back then, Dior played a fundamental role in the textile mogul Marcel Bousac's burgeoning empire. Today *couture* is used to promote almost anything from perfumes to pac-a-macs.

This period in fashion history is examined by two books which accompany the largest historic fashion exhibitions to have been held in London in recent years. For the Imperial War Museum, Colin McDowell has written *Forties Fashion and the New Look*, while *The Cutting Edge: Fifty Years of British Fashion, 1947-1997*, provides the background to the exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Colin McDowell's book looks back to the 1930s, setting the scene for wartime, make-do-and-mend rationing, and on through to postwar austerity. McDowell explores the foundations for the design breakthrough of the New Look and the euphoric and escapist mood which ensured its acceptance.

Where the book falls down is in its poor referencing to sources. "To make a woman feel better, you must make her feel beautiful" is the last sentence in the book. It is an unsourced quote, and perhaps in 1997 it should remain so, but it is a shame that neither the very readable text nor well-produced pictures are adequately referenced.

Nevertheless, Colin McDowell has ranged widely in telling the story of every woman and her clothes. An experienced international fashion journalist, he is in touch with the woman on the street, the lady in the trade, and passes easily from Bond Street to Seventh Avenue, and the Champs Elysées.

Edited by Amy de la Haye, *The Cutting Edge* looks at the contributions of British fashion and its designers from 1947 to the present day. It examines these under the headings of: fine tailoring, romantic dress, bohemian or fanciful styling and country clothes, each of which is the subject of an article by different authors. The clear and comprehensive introduction by Ms de la Haye defines the categories and sets current British fashion in its social, economic, administrative and educational context. Designers as diverse as Norman Hartnell, Hardy Amies, Mary Quant, Zandra Rhodes, Jean Muir, Vivienne Westwood and Tommy Nutter are interviewed.

Accessories, hats, handbags, shoes and underwear also have their space. But the chapters are perhaps too brief for the diversity of the subjects, resulting in a rather simplistic inventorial approach. The book is also a little blinkered with regards to influences from overseas: the Italian contribution to shoe and handbag design, for example, deserves comment, as does the American contribution to underwear design, which has been unduly marginalised.

It is very much the book of the exhibition, and the high quality illustrations are an anthology of the late 20th-century museum collections — both fashion illustrations and photography as well as fashion and textiles.

The original aim of the V&A was to improve the standard of national taste and, of course, the demand for exports. Over the past 50 years British designers have popped on and off the world fashion stage. It is a happy thought that the publication of this book coincides with the career move of two of the finest young British designers in the world today: Galliano to Dior and McQueen to Givenchy. Both of them "buy British" — may they not be the last to do so.

Make-do-and-mend: the ration book, an essential part of wartime *couture* (1944)

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

SPECIAL OFFER
SAVE £2 ON *PART OF THE FURNITURE*
by Mary Wesley
Only £12.99 (RRP £14.99) with free p&p for the UK

● You can also buy ANY English-language book currently in print
● FREE UK p&p ● Delivery in 7-10 days, subject to availability
● 24-hour service. Staff available 8am to 6pm, Monday to *Friday, 9am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 4pm Sunday.*

CALL: 0345 660 916 CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE
Call +44 990 134 459 from overseas and the Republic of Ireland; fax +44 1326 374 888. e-mail: bookshop@the-times.co.uk

Or post coupon to: News Books, FREEPOST, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2BR.
Please send me these books (order additional titles on a separate sheet):

Qty	Title/Author	Total Price

Surname ________ Initial ________ Title ________
Address ________
____
Postcode ________ Tel ________
I enclose cheque/PO(s) payable to NEWS BOOKS for a total of £ ________
Please write your name and address on the back of all cheques
Debit my *Mastercard/Visa/AmEx, Switch or Delta* account no:
☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ TT
Print Name ________ Expiry Date ________
Signature ________ Date ________
For Republic of Ireland and overseas orders add 20% to total book cost. Delivery is by airmail in Europe, surface to rest of world. (Airmail outside Europe add 35%.) The suggested retail price of a book can be *subject to change by the publisher* without prior notice. Tick box if you prefer *not to receive details of other offers* ☐

A Good Book but lacking in family values

John Polkinghorne

IN THE BEGINNING
By Karen Armstrong
HarperCollins, £14.99
ISBN 0 00 628014 5

THE subtitle proclaims this to be *A new reading of the Book of Genesis*. It will certainly be so for those whose impressions are derived from picture books of Noah's Ark or from Joseph and his Technicolored Dreamcoat (alas, as here, translated as a robe with long sleeves). For those with a closer acquaintance with this compilation of ancient stories, occurring in a variety of versions, combined but imperfectly reconciled by the eventual editors, there will be less occasion for surprise. Genesis is powerful, primeval, patriarchal. It is quite often morally questionable, as Marcion pointed out in the 2nd century. As in any account of divine election surveyed from without, God's choices can seem strange and arbitrary. Genesis is not a book full of illustrations of good "family values": think of Jacob and Esau, or Joseph and his brothers. The book has about it a good deal of the untidiness and strangeness of life.

Armstrong takes the reader through all this in a sequence of short chapters. She tells the stories at face value, with some *faux naiveté* and anachronism resulting at times. The meat of this 20th-century reading lies in the comments that accompany the stories, which are nearly always interesting and often insightful. The stance is heavily influenced by Jung and particularly by the latter's belief in the "shadow side" of God. Armstrong writes: "One of the problems of monotheism has been its reluctance to accept evil in the divine." She makes use of the Jewish idea of the *yetzer ha'ra*, the evil inclination that the rabbis saw as part of God's creation (just as Satan, in Job, is part of the heavenly court). A contemporary Christian reading would have had to wrestle with all the problems that Armstrong brings out so clearly, but it would have made different responses to them. Part of that response would have involved a greater acknowledgement of the effects of the historical and cultural settings of the writings, and part a refusal to read Genesis as a separate book, divorced from the rest of scripture.

One third of the text is taken up by reprinting a translation of *Genesis*, presumably just in case the reader did not know where to find it.

John Polkinghorne's latest book. Beyond Science, *is published by Cambridge University Press, priced £13.95.*

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography,
Religious, Poetry, Children's.
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED.
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 OLD BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON SW7 3DQ

AUTHORS
Let Us Publish Your Book.
Most subjects considered including
Religion, Biography, Children's
Stories, Poems, Fiction and First
Books.
AVON BOOKS (M),
1, Dovedale Studios,
465, Battersea Park Road,
London SW11 4LR.

Larger than life: **Jeanette Winterson** enjoys the epistolary quirks of an eccentric English poet

Not a mother to Marilyn

Death to the pipsqueaks: Edith Sitwell armed herself on behalf of anyone she felt was being given a rotten deal (1960)

SELECTED LETTERS OF EDITH SITWELL
Edited by Richard Greene
Virago, £20
ISBN 1 86049 255 X

"When I am told by left-wing boys that I can't write poetry because I have no proletarian experiences, I often wonder how many of them, at the age of 17, have been sent to pawn false teeth — parental false teeth!!!"

Edith Sitwell was a mouthpiece of English poetry for 40 years. Until her death in 1964, she recited, she lectured, she broadcast, she harangued, and she declaimed her famous 1923 poem, *Façade*, through a megaphone.

Everything about Edith was amplified: her height, she was six feet tall; her ancestry, there had been Sitwells at Renishaw Hall, Derbyshire, since 1660; her family, her brothers Osbert and Sacheverell were as conspicuous as she; her dress, flowing robes and outsize jewellery; her intensely dramatic friendships; and her work, which received a great deal of attention, much of it hostile.

These letters do not reveal Edith at her normal size according to the popular idea of the person versus the myth, rather they inscribe her peculiarly Alice-in-Wonderland character of one who seems to shrink away to nothing, only to tower over surroundings a moment later. This combination of vulnerability and dominance made her friends love her. To her critics it was all part of the sham.

She had plenty of critics: Geoffrey Grigson, Julian Symons (who pursued her literally to death's door), F. R. Leavis, of whom she wrote with good humour: "Hot water is my natural element as far as Dr Leavis is concerned."

For a while Stephen Spender derided her work, and she said of him: "When he is not sentimental he is hysterical." Her collection, *Street Songs*, which included the tremendous 1941 war poem, *Still Falls the Rain*, won him to her, and during the war they became fast friends, he supporting her work and she knitting for his baby.

Opinions about Edith Sitwell's work were, and are still, rather mixed. Edith loved to do battle with what she called the "pipsqueaks", and she was regularly aided in her sallies by her brothers, even to the extent of running a libel suit against a journalist who was forced to pay damages for implying that the Sitwells were of no further interest.

Her fighting spirit sprung out of the simple sense of justice that caused her to arm herself on behalf of anyone she felt was being given a rotten deal. What is clear and surprising from the letters is how tirelessly Edith worked for anyone she believed in. Dylan Thomas and William Walton are well known but there were many now obscure people whom Edith took to heart, usually by sending them money when she knew she couldn't afford it.

There is a lot in these letters about money. Her mother, Lady Ida, was sent to Holloway for a few weeks on charges of forgery, while Edith herself, in the 1950s, went to Hollywood to earn a fortune. The fortune did not materialise but Marilyn Monroe did, much to the delight of the press, with whom Edith was furious as usual: "One of their lower grade mental defectives rang up and asked: 'Is Miss Monroe going on the same boat as you to England?' A Calcutta paper says I live 'only to be a mother to Miss Monroe'".

Maternal feeling was not Edith's strong suit. On a memorable train journey, she wrote: "The whole train was a shrieking hooting whistling mass of infant imbeciles. As you know, I haven't the unnatural love of children that affects some women. By the time I arrived I was longing for another Herod."

Her own childhood had been loveless and bizarre. Her father had wanted a male heir, her mother, only 18, had wanted no child at all. Edith, who was gawky, was locked up at night in a steel body-cage designed to correct her spine. Growing up, she found her mother distant and her father tyrannous. In early instructions about her funeral, she directed: "Please see to it that I am cremated. The other thing would be too much like living with father."

Amusing, painful, these letters are very entertaining, many have not been published before, and they give the reader a great hubbub of life, literary and cultural, in London and Paris, from Modernism to Beat poetry.

The problem with the book is a scanty introduction, no biographical details at all and no chronology of Edith Sitwell's life or her work. There is no bibliography, no list of Sitwell work in print, in fact nothing to help the curious reader to find his/her way. Victoria Glendinning's biography, *A Unicorn Among Lions*, should be recommended, not out of earnestness but for pleasure. There is so much fun and fight in Edith Sitwell and her work that it would be a pity to miss any of it.

Making the red one green

Colin Tudge

SLOW RECKONING
By Tom Athanasiou
Secker & Warburg, £12.99
ISBN 0 436 20282 4

The decades of the Cold War were bad for the environment — of course they were: the two superpowers, with the third hovering in the wings, were too focused upon each other to spare much thought for the fabric of the world itself. Yet the environmentalist movement was, in a way, bullish. "Neither Right nor Left — but out in front!", the Green Party of Germany proclaimed. Somehow they felt that when confrontation ended we would at last acknowledge the need to put our global house in order and pursue, post haste, the goal of "sustainable development".

Well, the Cold War officially ended in 1989 along with the Soviet Union, with even China joining the quasi-unified global market — and yet, says Tom Athanasiou, things have not worked out for the Greens at all. The new economy simply is not designed to take account of the environment. Whatever is common — land, water, air — is treated as a freebie. Whoever is unsuited to the market — nomads, aboriginals, poor people in general — are simply shrugged aside.

The Earth Summit of 1992 that was intended to put the world to rights was a "dismal anticlimax". All the truly serious clauses were eliminated — "the US and its allies insisted on cutting all carbon dioxide targets and targets from the climate treaty . . . The master treaty, *Agenda 21*, hyped as the environment Magna Carta, somehow manages to omit any discussion of greening the international trade system, or disarmament, or any means by which global inequity might actually be reduced." Overall, in the words of the German Green Wolfgang Sachs: "A barrier broke and nothing came through."

Meanwhile, the big companies, now more powerful than nations, practise "greenwashing" — with great effect; as one sceptic commented: "People really seem to think that Exxon is cleaning up its act." In the United States, the "wise-use" campaign goes from strength to strength and aims, in the words of one of its leaders, "to destroy the environmental movement once and for all". Indeed, with the Cold War over, environmentalism seems to have taken over from communism as the national bogy.

Then as now: activist (1987)

So what's to be done? On details Tom Athanasiou is vague but he does suggest, quoting William James, that we need "'a moral equivalent of war' — only this time a war of co-operation, a war to save the Earth. That is what it will take". In short, our cosy conceit that a compost heap and an occasional trip to the bottlebank will do the trick is a horrible piece of self-deception. Everyone who really cares should read *Slow Reckoning*, and think on.

Colin Tudge is a Visiting Research Fellow of the Centre of Philosophy at the London School of Economics.

Stranger than fact? Dirty dealings in the art world

Peter Watson

FEAR OF THE DOG
By Neil Tidmarsh
Signet, £5.99
ISBN 0 451 18933 7

NICHOLAS TODD, the narrator of *Fear of the Dog*, is a lawyer-turned-artist living in the proverbial garret where it is always either freezing or baking. Tony Acton is his dealer — well-off, flamboyant, oozing charm and, from page one, the villain of the piece. Why is it always the dealer who is the bad guy in art thrillers? One or two real-life artists have been, shall we say, less than perfect (Fra Lippo Lippi, Caravaggio, Domenichino, for example) and it would be refreshing to have a change from this all too familiar scenario.

Tidmarsh's strength in this book is the clarity and simplicity of his writing. He knows when to leave a sentence well alone, when you do and do not need adverbs, how much description is just enough.

The weakness — fatal, in my view — stems from the fact that it is written in the first person. Since it is the narrator who is in deadly combat with the villain, the outcome is never in doubt (he must win in order to write the book), there is no tension even when the most dreadful things are happening to Todd, and the subplots have fizzled out so long before that the ending is rather empty.

Todd decides to kill Acton on page one but the plot goes horribly — disastrously — wrong. The deaths in the book are original and suitably gory and the set-up is admirably meticulous. However, insofar as the twist in the tail removes the romantic element, our interest levels off at the very point when it ought to be taking wing.

There is less art background than you might expect, the author obviously being more interested in characterisation than chiaroscuro. There is nothing wrong with that, but it does mean that the promise of the book's blurb, to take us into "the darkest depths of London's art world", could not be further from the truth.

What we have here is a well-written novel with deep structural faults — an unthrilling thriller, an amputated (and therefore ultimately disappointing) love story, and a villain who is too bad to be true, given Mr Tidmarsh's obvious intelligence.

I suspect he has set his sights too low and should be more ambitious next time.

Peter Watson's book Sotheby's *is published by Bloomsbury at £20*

Paying for it in sweat

Nominees Kennedy and Nixon make ready for battle (1960)

Ronald Brownstein

KENNEDY & NIXON
The Rivalry *that Shaped*
Postwar America
By Christopher Matthews
Simon & Schuster, £16.99
ISBN 0 684 81030 1

READING Chris Matthews's engaging account of the rivalry between John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon is like sitting in the back of a bar with an old-fashioned Irish politician, listening to vintage campaign stories that grow more pungent with age.

Matthews doesn't spend much time trying to deliver on his subtitle: he's not one to confect weighty speculations about how the two men's lifelong competition "shaped postwar America". As a former Democratic political operative himself, Matthews is more intent on bringing to life Kennedy and Nixon as working politicians — men in the arena, as Theodore Roosevelt put it.

In that ambition, he delivers very ably. Matthews is a good companion with a knack for the telling detail and the bright turn of phrase. From the start, he displays a clear sense of his protagonists. The rivalry between Kennedy and Nixon, he aptly writes, pits "a Mozart against a Salieri". Kennedy was the golden boy of postwar American life, a man who conquered all worlds — from politics to the bedroom — and all without ever apparently breaking a sweat. Nixon always seemed to be sweating, with exertion, anxiety, envy. "If Americans viewed John F. Kennedy as their shining hero," Matthews writes, "they also recognised the five o'clock shadow of Richard Nixon in the fluorescent light of their bathroom mirror."

In fact, as Matthews shows, Nixon and Kennedy had more in common than met they eye. As Second World War veterans, both were elected to Congress in 1946. Until Kennedy narrowly bested Nixon in the 1960 presidential campaign, the two considered themselves friends. Both were fierce Cold Warriors; both were convinced that politics was the conduct of war by other means; both were disdainful of the liberal press and social establishment they found in the capital.

Yet they came to that shared contempt from divergent perspectives that shaped their lives throughout. Born to wealth, Kennedy had the cool contempt of a conqueror: he could disdain the Establishment because he had seen its pretensions and frailties from the inside. Nixon — the southern California boy forced to turn down his scholarship to Harvard because his parents couldn't afford the room and board — was forever the outsider pressed against the glass, burning with resentment.

Kennedy was liberated by his disdain, Nixon imprisoned. Kennedy ruthlessly pursued his personal ambitions and political goals, unintimidated by anyone. Nixon was just as relentless, but he was a prisoner of his own resentments — a rage against his political enemies that ultimately consumed him in the Watergate scandal.

Probably more words have been written about Kennedy and Nixon than any other modern American leaders, and Matthews inevitably reploughs some well-worn ground. But through interviews and industrious digging in the archives, he has found fresh material that illuminates his familiar characters from new angles. Particularly moving is an exchange of letters after Nixon invited Jacqueline Kennedy and her two young children back to the White House for the first time in years: "You will always be welcome in This House," Nixon wrote to young John Kennedy after leading him through the office where he had once famously played under his father's desk.

Yet the man capable of that tenderness also sought to place spies on the secret service detail assigned to the last Kennedy brother — Teddy — in the hopes of discovering a personal indiscretion that would destroy him. Nixon may indeed be a tragic figure, but he is one who fully earned his disgrace. In American iconography, the common sense of the common man always trumps the airs of the elite. This story inverts that folk wisdom. John Kennedy, heaven knows, had his ethical blindspots too; but in the end, the child of privilege had a more reliable moral compass than the champion of the silent majority.

Three weddings and a funeral

Ann Thwaite

VICTORIAN GIRLS
Lord Lyttelton's Daughters
By Sheila Fletcher
Hambledon Press, £25
ISBN 1 85285 150 3

To succour the men: *The Old Dozen*, Lord Lyttleton's children outside Hagley Hall (circa 1860)

"The girls are subdued, vague and sweet," Peter Quennell wrote 60 years ago in *Victorian Panorama*, describing a typical family photograph, and so the four Lyttelton girls look in *The Old Dozen*, the portrait of the 4th Lord Lyttelton's 12 children by his first wife. The boys, on the other hand, look arrogant and careless, lounging around, legs crossed, hands in pockets. They would grow up to include a bishop, a general, and Head Master of Eton and a Cabinet minister. (This last was Alfred, the baby of the group, and most brilliant of all.) The three girls who survived became wives, and two of them mothers. What else was there after all, as George Eliot said of Dorothea Brooke, that they could have done? Their role was "to succour and advance the men".

Sheila Fletcher has transformed a mass of almost entirely unpublished papers (mainly letters and diaries from the Lyttelton, Talbot and Gladstone families) into a readable narrative, which confirms just how much young women, however clever and strong-minded, were limited by the expectations and conventions of their time. One of the ironies of the book, to which Sheila Fletcher draws attention in her preface, is that Lord Lyttelton, who in 1869 headed the Endowed Schools Commission and was instrumental in establishing the first grammar schools for girls, gave his daughters just the sort of "slip-sloppy" education which he officially castigated. "How it makes me gnash my teeth not knowing Greek!" Lucy said to her father, who was in the habit of translating Milton into Greek iambics on the hunting field.

The boys went from Eton to Cambridge. The girls left the schoolroom as soon as they were 17; after that it was up to them as far as serious things were concerned. They went on with dancing, singing and Italian lessons, and a certain amount of doing good. But it was the country visits and the London seasons which mattered most, intended to match the girls with suitable husbands.

Much of the book is concerned with the affairs of the girls' hearts. Both Meriel and Lavinia married Talbots, close family friends. Lucy's bridegroom was Lord Frederick Cavendish, second son of the Duke of Devonshire. For many readers the shadow of the "Phoenix Park murders" will inevitably hang over their happiness. The shadow for Lucy herself was the fact that the marriage was childless. Meriel ended up with ten. When her twins were born ("the poor little unwelcome couple" Lucy called them), Lyttelton admitted "a wish that it may be put a stop to". As for Lucy, she would live alone for another 43 years after Lord Frederick was hacked to death on the very day he arrived in Dublin, sent by Lucy's uncle, William Gladstone, as Secretary of State for Ireland.

At 17, Lucy had written in her diary: "Oh, the deep sadness Of the flying oara." Death is a constant presence in the book, although May, the third sister, was the only one who died young. Their mother had died not long after Alfred's birth, and one by one the girls tried to take her place at the heart of the family, running Hagley (their house in Worcestershire), worrying over servants and brothers. Eventually Lyttelton married again, which caused more and different problems. "He never would teach me anything," the second wife said, yet tributes on his death were above all to "the services Lord Lyttelton rendered to the cause of the education of women". His suicide, and the shocking manner of it, is the most surprising thing in the book.

The Lytteltons were more conventional than their Gladstone cousins. None of the women would justify a whole biography as Mary Gladstone would. All the same, there is a great deal in this study to reward our curiosity.

Ann Thwaite's book Emily Tennyson: The Poet's Wife, *is published by Faber at £25*

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Bargains of the week — from a Mother's Day break in a 16th-century farmhouse to a spring trip to Norway

HOLIDAYS

PARTNERS go half-price on city breaks to Rome, Florence and Venice from February 28 to March 21 with Skybus Holidays. Prices start from £239 for the first person and £119.50 *for the second and* include three nights B&B and *flights from Gatwick. Details:* 0171-373 6055.

■ MALTA for a week for £169 a person in a four-star hotel is available from Malta Direct Travel with flights between March 3 *and* 6 *from* Gatwick. Details: 0181-785 3233.

■ FLORIDA for £359 for a *week with room-only* accommodation and a flight from *Luton on March 7 is on offer* from Cosmos. Details: 0161-*480 5799.*

■ A FARMHOUSE dating from the 16th century in Herefordshire and a characterful cottage near Stroud in Gloucestershire are among properties available from March 8, including Mother's Day, from Cottage Holidays. Price: £127 for three nights. *Details: 01282 445095.*

■ KERALA, *southern India*, for £479 for a fortnight's B&B in a guesthouse *with a flight* from Gatwick on March 9, is available from Inspirations. A fortnight in Goa with the flight from Manchester the day before costs the same. Details: 01293 822244.

■ GOLF in Estoril, Portugal, is available at a *saving of* £50 a week in March and *April from Longshot Golf.* For £499, tourists can enjoy a week's *B&B at a five-star* hotel, return flights from Heathrow, car hire, free drinks and three rounds of golf. Details: 01730 268621.

■ NORWAY in the spring from £191 a person is on offer *from* Color Line and includes three nights' half-board accommodation *in Voss*, return crossings with car from Newcastle *to* Bergen with cabin and breakfast and Saturday departures. Details: 0191-296 1313.

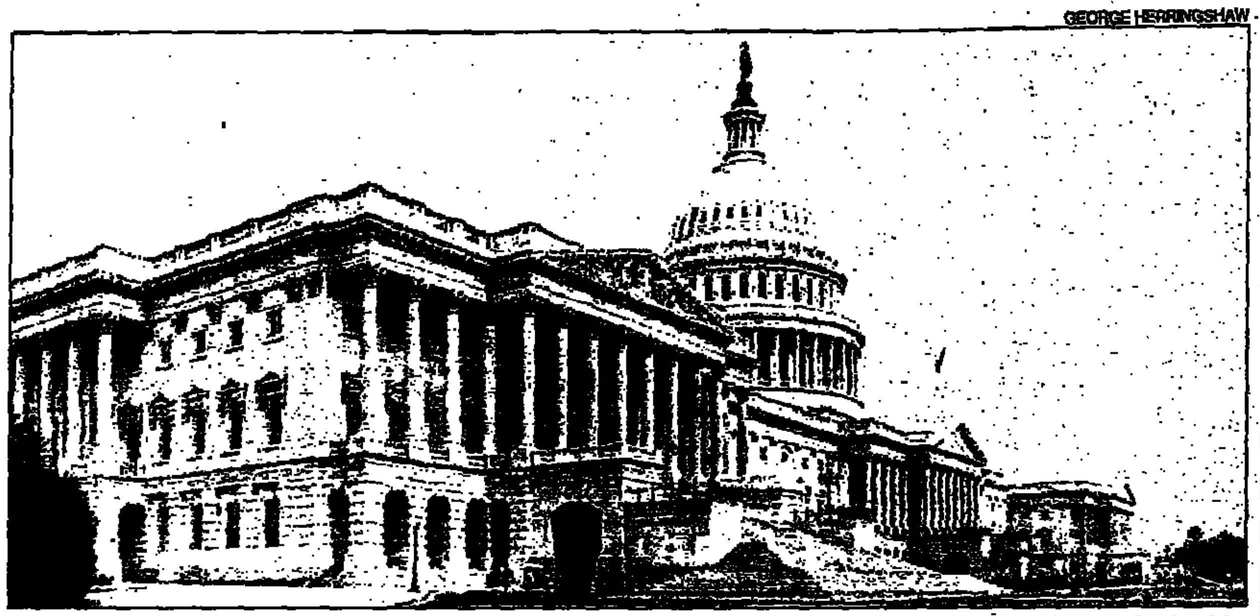
■ PARIS for three nights over Easter for £109 a person is *available from Archers Tours* with coach and ferry travel *and bed and breakfast* accommodation. Details: 0181-466 6745.

■ *SAVINGS of £250* and more are available for a limited period from Voyages of Discovery for their cruises in the Eastern Mediterranean combining learning with relaxation. Prices start from £545 for a week's cruise. Details: 01293 433030.

■ SONGKRAN water festival in Chiang Mai is the highlight of a 12-day hillside *escape tour to Thailand with* Travelbag Adventures with a *flight* from Heathrow on April 12. Priced from £775 a person, including accommodation, some meals and a group leader. Details: 01420 541007.

■ MEXICO from £449 a person for a week in hotel accommodation and Sri Lanka from £389 for five nights *are among late availability* offers in April and May from *Kuoni. Details: 01306* 740500.

GEORGE HERRINGSHAW



Late winter breaks are available in Washington DC for £289 a person, including all taxes, until March 20 with Travelplanners and *include* three nights' accommodation and direct *United Airlines flights. Details: 0990 280036*

FLIGHTS

RETURN flights with Emirates to Bangkok, Singapore, Hong Kong or Manila cost £395 if you depart before February 27. Details from Flight Bookers: 0171-757 2444.

■ HONG KONG fares tumble *from March 31 when the* Beijing-based Air China *launches a weekly non-stop* service. First class will cost *£2,022* (£5,574 normally), business class £1,299 (£2,878 usually), while the airline will shortly announce cut-price economy fares. Details: 0171-630 0919.

■ MEA flights to Beirut cost £220 return during February. *Details: 0171-493 5681.*

■ THE NEW Pan Am has cut fares on several US domestic routes. For example, New York-LosAngeles costs £125 one way and New York-Miami is priced at £65. Details: 01444 415472.

■ *LUPUS Travel is charging* from £119 for Alitalia flights to *many Italian cities if booked* before February 28. There is a *50 per cent discount for children.* Details: 0171-306 3000.

■ TORONTO with British Airways costs £200 when booked by February 26. Details from Travelmood: 0171-258 0280.

■ THIS *month* Lufthansa flights to Johannesburg cost *£450 return from London,* Birmingham, Glasgow or Manchester. *Details from* Air Tickets Direct 0990 320 321.

FERRIES

P&O FERRIES has a two-day return fare of £45 a car and up to five passengers on its Dover-Calais route, available until March 16. A £10 supplement for Saturday travel, *extra passengers £4 each.* Details: 0990 980980.

■ *STENA LINE fares for any date in 1997 on its Harwich-*Hook of Holland route start at £98, or £158 on its new Hoverspeed service, if booked and paid for by February 28. Details: 0990 707070.

■ DAY-TRIPS with Le Shuttle from Folkestone to Calais cost £59 for a car and occupants (£49 on night crossings). *Details: 0990 353535.*

■ *IRISH FERRIES has* halved fares on its Pembroke-Rosslare route to £49 one-way until May 21 (not Easter), for a car and up to five passengers. Details: 0345 171717.

■ SEA FRANCE has 1997 advance booking fares on Dover-Calais for motorcycles, *scooters and sidecars of £59, to* include driver and up to two passengers. *Bookings must be* made and paid for by February 28. *Details: 0181-324 4000.*

■ DAY-TRIPS on Stena Line cost £15 a car and £1 an occupant, including driver, on Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe and Harwick-Hook of Holland *routes*. A £10 car supplement applies on Saturday *sailings from* Dover and Newhaven, and on Friday *night departures from* Harwich. Details: 0990 767676.

HOTELS

TICKETS to see *Riverdance — The Show,* at the Edinburgh Playhouse, are included in a two-night *break at the King* James Thistle Hotel in the city. The price of £130 a person includes accommodation, breakfast, one dinner and the tickets. Offer available until May 17. Details: 0131-556 0111.

■ TWO-NIGHT Easter *breaks at 24 hotels in London* are offered by Highlife Breaks, with a 30 per cent discount on a third night's accommodation. Prices start at £72 a person for two nights. Details: 0800 700400.

■ THE Samling At Dovenest, a *ten-room* luxury private residence overlooking Lake *Windermere and usually used* for group incentives, is offering *individual travellers the* chance to stay over the Easter weekend. Price is *£520* a person for three nights and includes all meals and beverages. Details: 015394 31922.

■ FREE MEALS at seven London restaurants in the capital's three Inter-Continental Hotels are available to *members of the* hotel group's Preference Club programme. *Membership at £99 plus* VAT for a year entitles the cardholder to *dine free* when accompanied by another guest who is also eating. Details: 0800 181169.

■ A £25 shopping voucher is included in the Time To Spend weekend offer from the Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge. *Price for any weekend* night for two people is £295 a *room, including breakfast and* dinner and use of the new health club *and spa. Details:* 0171-235 6000.

■ SUVRETTA House in St Moritz and the Grand Hotel *Zermatterof* in Zermatt, located at opposite ends of the Alps, are again *linking up this* summer to offer a two-centre package connected by the daily Glacier Express train. Prices start at £699 a person *from June* 28 and includes three nights at each hotel half-board, *plus transfers. Details:* 00 41 27 966 6600.

■ SEE *Sunset Boulevard* in London before it closes. Superbreaks Mini Holidays is offering best available seats to see the show and accommodation at the four-star Grafton Hotel for any Monday to Thursday night until April 3. *Price is £99.50 a person before* end of February and £105 a person thereafter. *Details:* 01904 679999.

■ CALCOT Manor in the Cotswolds has a "great antique" five-night programme between March 23 and 28, including guest lecturers on antiques, most meals and transport to all locations during the show. Price is *£740 a person* based *on* double occupancy. Details: 01666 890391.

■ THE *Radisson SAS Port*man Hotel in central London has a Mother's Day offer available on the night of Saturday, March 8, priced at £179.50 a room and including a jazz brunch on the *Sunday with a surprise gift.* The usual brunch rate alone *is £19.50 a person. Details:* 0171-208 6000.

CHECK-IN

WASHINGTON fr £160*
NEW YORK £165
BOSTON £166
DALLAS £203*
TORONTO £204
LAS VEGAS £250
MEXICO CITY £276
DUBAI £279
VANCOUVER £286
INDIA £343
S.AFRICA £378
BANGKOK £383
SINGAPORE £398
HONG KONG £398
TOKYO £508
AUSTRALIA £573
NEW ZEALAND £640

AIRLINE NETWORK
WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS 017 72 72 72 72
AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND 01772 727 727
BUSINESS & FIRST CLASS 01772 727 747
ROUND THE WORLD 01772 727 222
The National Sales Centre for over 100 leading scheduled airlines, with 800,000 discount fares to 1,000 destinations.
OPEN 9am-8pm 7 days a week
SEE ITV Teletext P.275

USA & CANADA with NORTHWEST AIRLINES
Deps 5-30 April
CHILDREN HALF PRICE
Plus
Florida fr £183*
California fr £212*
Deps to 14 March
*Price per person, must travel in multiples of two
CALL FOR DETAILS

benz
NEW YORK £160
HONG KONG £410
LOW SEASON FARES
0171 439 4181

New York fr £159 rtn
California £249 rtn
Florida £189 rtn
Texas £230 rtn
Over 200 USA Destinations Available on Request
CALL THE TRAVEL EXPERTS
VIGO TRAVEL 0171 434 3424

NOW...GIVE US A CALL!
FAR EAST
EUROPE
AFRICA
OZ/NZ
NWT TRAVEL 0171 402 4044
NOW WE'RE TALKING!

Travel DREAMS
BEST FARES WORLDWIDE
0181 795 3180

MAJOR USA
Prices from
CALIFORNIA £255
DENVER £255
NEW YORK £169
BOSTON £170
FLORIDA £210
CAROLINAS £180
Airport taxes not inc.
MAJOR TRAVEL offer great value on low cost flights to all destinations in the USA, with the leading scheduled airlines.
Car hire, hotels and tours available.
RESERVATIONS 0171 485 7017

RexAir
Http://www.rexair.co.uk
0171 439 1898
Warwick Hse, 5 Warwick St, London W1

TRAVEL HORIZONS
BANGKOK fr £335 rtn
NEW YORK fr £165 rtn
CURRENT SPECIALS
BIG DISCOUNTS ON FIRST & BUSINESS CLASS
0171 580 7000

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS
More than just low cost flights worldwide
WITH UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR HIRE
Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service
LONDON Longhaul: 0171-938 3939
Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400
First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444
BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234
BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000
GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2224
MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 6969
First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

STA TRAVEL
WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL
Paris Eurostar £69, Amsterdam £66, Geneva £96, Athens £99, Cairo £236
New York £156, Boston £156, San Francisco £211, Los Angeles £211, Chicago £242
Vancouver £288, Bangkok £355, Singapore £414, Ho Chi Minh £540, Tokyo £540
Nairobi £339, Mexico £288, Rio de Janeiro £339, Perth £550, Sydney £589
ROUND THE WORLD: FROM £668
DUBLIN from 5 UK CITIES £59 rtn
EUROPE: 0171 361 6161, WORLDWIDE: 0171 361 6262. 0161 834 0668 (Manchester)
ACCOMMODATION • CAR HIRE • INSURANCE AND OVERLAND TOURS: 0171 361 6160
117 Euston Road NW1, 86 Old Brompton Rd SW7, 11 Goodge St W1, London.
LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW, LEEDS, NEWCASTLE, OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, BRISTOL, BRIGHTON
STA TRAVEL

ICARUS FLIGHTS
Booking Summer 1997 Now
01476 514666
ICARUS TRAVEL LTD

FLIGHTSEATS
All European & worldwide flights available
Inexpensive Car Hire Available
ABTA members for 18 years
0990 239904

PARIS FROM £75 RTN
You'd have to look hard to find a smaller fare.
AMSTERDAM from £69 return
BELFAST from £59 return
BERGEN from £145 return
BRUSSELS from £76 return
DUBLIN from £69 return
EDINBURGH from £59 return
FRANKFURT from £125 return
GLASGOW from £59 return
LEEDS BRADFORD from £83 return
NICE from £149 return
PALMA from £119 return
PRAGUE from £164 return
TEESSIDE from £93 return
ZURICH from £99 return
Return fares from London Heathrow.
Contact your local travel agent or call for details on
0345 554554 OR 0345 I FLY BM
BM British Midland
The Airline for Europe

TRAVEL INSURANCE
The ideal gift for your loved one - (and don't forget the holiday too!)
£10 OFF every policy sold.
CLUB DIRECT 01243 787835

USA & CANADA 0171 460 2255
BUSINESS & FIRST 0171 370 5671
WORLDWIDE 0171 460 2255
Free Fax 0500 765656
ZAK travel

CAPITAL FLIGHTS
Open Daily til late
Malaga fr £59, Alicante £59, Faro £69, Canaries £99, Palma £99, Greece £120
Turkey £99, Cyprus £89, Malta £95, Orlando £169, New York £169, Australia £565
World fares available at discount. Car hire, Hotels and Insurance
0171 209 4000.

TRUST TRAVEL LIMITED
MANY MORE DESTINATIONS
0171 287 3345

FARESAVERS
MALAGA fr £59, ALICANTE £59, FARO £59, TENERIFE £69, LAS PALMAS £69, LANZAROTE £69, BALEARICS £59
GREECE fr £69, TURKEY £109, ISRAEL £109, MALTA £79, CYPRUS £119, ITALY £59, CARIBBEAN £189
ALL EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS
ALSO CAR HIRE/INSURANCE
01476 592095

JETLINE
0171 360 1111

JETWORLD
CHEAPEST FARES AVAILABLE
01273 730930

GREAT DEALS
Europe £79
Worldwide £219
LUPUS TRAVEL LTD
0171 306 3000
01892 553500

AIRLINK Worldwide
0171 713 7770

FLIGHT CENTRE
WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS
ACCESS VISA WELCOME
DISCOUNTED INSURANCE
ATOL 3712
0181 669 8607

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE
Retail agents for ATOL holders
01273 700737.

EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS
0171 625 7660 SEAGULL TRAVELS

Charter FLIGHT CENTRE
EUROSTAR Weekend Breaks fr £120 pp
EUROPE Return prices from
Alicante 99, Athens 109, Cyprus 179, Faro 99, Israel 159, Italy 99
Malaga 99, Ski Flights 99, Switz'land 99, Tenerife 129, Tunisia 109, Turkey 139
WORLDWIDE Return prices from
Bangkok 339, Caribbean 289, Cairo 229, India 319
Montreal 189, N. Zealand 669, New York 179, Toronto 159
Many more destinations available
0171 828 1090

SUNDIAL TRAVEL
THE SPAIN FLIGHTS SPECIALISTS
February prices from
Alicante £85, Malaga £99, Madrid £89, Barcelona £89, Palma £89, Tenerife £129
Great rates for holiday car hire at all destinations
01276 686808

Daily Scheduled Services
5 x Glasgow £29
5 x Edinburgh £29
3 x Aberdeen £29
1 x Inverness £29
4 x Amsterdam £35
2 x Nice £49
1 x Barcelona £49
Single, from, excl. Tax.
Do not require a Saturday night stay.
From London Luton airport
easyJet
Call 01582 44 55 55 anytime

Who in the world do you turn to when you need to fly?
Tel: 0990-561-532

USA CANADA
Tauck Coach Tours
Motorhomes Self Drive Tours
MOTOR HOMES SPRING SPECIAL 3 WEEKS FOR 1
SUPER VALUE CANADA FLIGHTS
Tailormade Holidays Big Savings
Inclusive Price Car Rental
STATES AVERS 0990 133 343

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE FROM £46.
With insurance starting from just £46, contact the name you can trust for the best deals on Annual Multi Trip cover. Other policies available - Call for details. For travellers under 65 years only.
General Accident Direct
0800 121 007

JUST AMERICA
For the widest choice of escorted coach and self-drive tours, motorhomes, Florida, Bahamas and Canadian Holidays call Just America. Specialists in tailor-made quality holidays to North America.
Tauck Tours
We are now booking 1997 Tauck Tours. Great tours - at the best prices.
Motorhomes
Special offers. 3 weeks for the price of 1. For the best advice, call the experts - Just America.
SAVE UP TO £200
01730 266588

Travel as many times as you like from £59 a year.
With our annual travel insurance you can take an unlimited number of trips. To enrol, call between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday quoting reference 10 10
0800 700 737
Insurance Services

inter
MANY OTHER DESTINATIONS AVAILABLE
TEL: 0171 630 5188 Ext 25 FAX: 0171 233 9141

British head for hills as sterling's rise continues

By Harvey Elliott

THE continuing *strength* of the pound has led *to a resurgence* in holiday *bookings to* the mountains of France *and* the traditional ski resorts *of* Austria and Switzerland.

As Britain's inbound tourist numbers plunge because of sterling's rise, those heading abroad for their holidays are cashing in on increases of up to 25 per cent in their spending power. Thomson reports that bookings for summer breaks *in the Austrian lakes* and *mountains have gone up* by 48 per cent compared with last year and Inghams *has had to* add flights to cope with a 25 per cent leap in demand.

Andrew Russell of Inghams says: "Dramatic expansion in this particular market is virtually unheard of. But the current exchange rates mean that Britons get more Austrian *schillings* and Swiss francs for *their money, and that is* one of the reasons that sales are strong this year."

He says that the general improvement in the British economy and some of the best snow conditions for many years have also boosted the number of people heading for the mountains. He adds: "A lot of people who would take only one wintersports holiday in a season are squeezing in a *second, or even a third.*"

David Hearns of the Ski *Club of Great Britain says conditions* are *now* "*pretty* wonderful" throughout *the* Alps. "There has been a lot of snow in the last week and it was snowing heavily in Austria until lunchtime," he says. "News of these superb conditions is filtering through, and those who may have been put off by indifferent conditions on the lower slopes in Austria are now going."

Even low-level pistes will *now remain* open until Easter, *he predicts,* and higher-level *slopes "might stay open as long as they want".*

In the *past* 12 *months* the *pound has strengthened* sharply so that it now buys SwFr2.32 compared with only 1.84 last year, a 26 per cent change. The Austrian schilling is 20 per cent cheaper, at 18.98 to the pound, compared with 15.86 a year ago, and the French franc is 9.10, compared *with* 7.74 *in 1996* — an 18 per cent change.

Pascal St Père, *the* French Government Tourist Office's director, says the number of direct inquiries made to the London headquarters have leapt by 21 per cent compared with the same time last year. "The turnaround is remarkable," he *says.* "In *January last year* we had *10,500* phone *inquiries but this year they* have risen to 12,700.

"We are getting the same feedback from tour operators, who all claim that bookings are well up compared with last year. Gites are even cheaper than they were last year because of the involvement of Brittany Ferries in marketing them and because the value of the pound in France *is* rising *all the time.*"

Thomson says that late *bookers are now finding perfect conditions* on *the pistes* and good *value for* money in the restaurants and cafés near favourite resorts.

At this time last year, a Coca-Cola cost the equivalent of £1.57 in Austria, £1.04 in France and £1.73 in Switzerland. This year the prices have fallen to £1.31, 87p and £1.37 respectively. A glass of wine, which last year cost £1.89 in Austria, *£1.67 in France and* £2.71 *in Switzerland is now,* according to Thomson, £1.58, *£1.42 and* £2.15 *in Soll, Val Thorens and Verbier respectively.*

Even more *noticeable* is the reduction in the price of food. A two-course meal in France will now cost an average of £10.98 compared with £12.91 a year ago, and a hot main course in Switzerland has dropped from £8.15 to £6.46.

Steve Garley, commercial *director of Thomson, says:* "The exchange rate has had a very significant effect on people's decisions about where to go. A family of four might easily have had to spend, for example, £100 on a single meal in Switzerland last year. The *bill* for the same meal *would be* £25 lower *this year and that is an important saving indeed.*"

Tour operators will soon be buying their foreign currency for next winter's holidays, which they will then use to pay for hotel or chalet accommodation. If the present trend continues, they will be able to make huge savings compared with this winter, whatever happens to exchange rates in the meantime.

This in turn will mean that many brochure prices will be *lower next year* than this — a move spotted by thousands of canny holidaymakers from the UK, who have already boosted bookings for both the coming summer and next winter.

Bookings heavy for early Easter ski and sun trips

By Tony Dawe

EASTER holidays are rapidly selling out as the travel boom continues and Britons plan a break in the sun or on the ski slopes to cheer themselves up during the gales sweeping the nation.

Leading travel agents and tour operators all report that Easter bookings are ahead of last year and that people still wanting to travel cannot be choosy about dates and destinations. Some are even recommending that families book a May Bank Holiday break rather than rely on getting what they want at Easter.

Thomson, Britain's *largest* holiday company, says *it has* sold 90 *per cent of its Easter* programme, *and destinations including Florida, the Caribbean and the Canary Isles* are *almost completely booked up.*

Cosmos reports that it has sold far more Easter holidays than at the same time last year while the high street travel agents Going Places and Lunn Poly also advise those still planning a holiday to book as quickly as possible.

Andrew Windsor, the director of retail operations at Thomas Cook, says: "With rigid school holiday dates in place, most people have already taken advantage of the discounts available earlier in the year.

A Thomson spokeswoman says: "Easter is always a very popular time especially for family holidays, but this year is proving exceptional.

"Some pockets of Spain and *the* Mediterranean are still available but for those looking for a holiday in the Canaries, only a flight from Manchester to Tenerife on Easter Sunday remains, while for the Caribbean only some flights from Gatwick to the Dominican Republic are still on offer."

Lunn Poly confirms that the Canary Islands and Florida are popular with people snapping up sunshine breaks but the UK's largest travel agency still has some Easter holidays available to these destinations.

They include a *fortnight's First Choice self-catering holiday in Tenerife for £1,680* for a family *of four* and a *fortnight in Florida with Unijet in a hotel close to Disney World for* £1,948 for a *family of four.* Both holidays start with flights from Gatwick on March 21.

Tropical Places reports that few seats are left on its long-haul holidays over Easter but it still has space on a fortnight's all-inclusive holiday to the Rex Grenadian Hotel, Grenada, costing £1,269 a person with a flight from Gatwick on March 19. A fortnight at the Frigate Bay Hotel on the unspoilt Caribbean island of St Kitts is also available for £829 with a flight from Gatwick on March 24.

Tony Bennett, Going *Places* managing director, says: "*Easter is so early this year that* it is *still* possible *to take a winter skiing break over the holiday and it also fits in with people wanting a late winter sunshine break.*"

SATURDAY TRAVEL

- Adrian Hamilton at the top end of Australia
- Mexico: diving in Cozumel, Oaxaca, Cancun and Huatulco
- Jane Reed learns to cook Puglian style
- Skiing: Switzerland
- City breaks: Glasgow and Nottingham
- Jill Crawshaw's Travel Tips
- Derwent May on new travel guides

Discounts halted

By Steve Keenan

BRITAIN'S second biggest travel agency is ending discounts on summer holidays because of a boom in bookings. Going Places will stop *discounts of up to 10 per* cent from Monday after industry figures showed that sales are up by one third on last year.

There are 8.5 million package holidays on sale this year from tour operators, the same number as in 1996. By February 15, about 4.2 million had been sold, compared with 3.3 million at the same time last year. Going Places, *which has* 715 travel shops, *said the* demand for summer holidays meant there was no further need to offer discounts. Tony Bennett, the managing director, *said:* "We have said all along that the market is ahead and capacity is going to be tight, so there is no need to carry on discounting like this."

The biggest travel agent, Lunn Poly, and its rivals refused to say whether they would copy Going Places' tactics. But if rivals *do not follow the lead, it is expected* that Going Places will *revert to discounting* through fear of *losing market share.*

Better roads, hotels and air services have helped to make Tanzania a more popular destination for Britons

Zimbabwe falls from favour

By Tony Dawe

ZIMBABWE is losing its appeal and being replaced by Zambia and Tanzania as favourite offbeat African holiday destinations, according to a survey this week by Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions.

The company, which offers exotic and adventurous holidays to Asia and the Americas as well as Africa, also reports a fourfold increase in bookings *to Peru with Costa Rica and the Galapagos Islands* gaining in popularity.

Just as England's cricketers lost their enthusiasm for Zimbabwe on a disastrous tour earlier this winter, so too are British holidaymakers — but for different reasons.

Nick Van Gruisen, the managing director of Worldwide Journeys, says: "While the players found the country strange and bewildering, tourists are finding it's not wild enough. Wonderful places like *the Victoria Falls are being swamped with tourists flown* in on charter flights and the country has also become more expensive.

"People who regularly travel long-haul are looking for something even more unusual or adventurous than their last trip. So those who have visited Zimbabwe or Botswana are now looking at Tanzania or Zambia, *while* people who *traditionally* travelled east for *adventure are starting to disover Peru,* Costa Rica *and* the Galapagos Islands."

Van Gruisen also reports a growing trend to combine adventure with a few days' relaxation on the beach, with tourists who visit southern Tanzania, for example, mixing game viewing and bushwalking in Selous and Ruaha National Parks with three days in a luxury resort on the coast.

Bill Adams, chairman of the African Travel and Tourism *Association, says that better roads,* hotels and air services have helped to make Tanzania and Zambia more popular destinations.

"In real terms," he adds, "holidaying in Tanzania today costs no more than a decade ago, but tourists benefit from much higher quality holidays and a dramatically improved infrastructure, especially in the south. In Zambia, big *developments in internal air services have made a lot of areas,* which were difficult to reach, more accessible."

Adams, the director of Safari Consultants, adds that Botswana is losing popularity because of increased prices, the recent boom in travel to South Africa is levelling out and Kenya is making a comeback as discerning holidaymakers discover places which the package tours miss out.

"We are seeing more and *more* people *wanting to choose their own itineraries and stay in small exclusive* lodges such as Tortilis and Ol Donyo Wuas in Kenya and *Tongabezi in Zambia,*" says Nigel Vere Nicoll, *chief executive* of Wild Africa Safaris.

Outside Africa, Mr Van Gruisen reports that Peru is becoming more popular because its fabulous Inca sites and breathtaking scenery remain relatively unspoilt. He says: "The Galapagos Islands are also attracting more tourists *as they realise they can play catch with the sea turtles, swim with sharks and discover* equally wonderful creatures and plants on land."

Just as Kenya is regaining popularity in Africa, Nepal is back as a top Asian destination, according to the Worldwide Journeys boss. "The country suffered from a view that too many tourists were spoiling its greatest attractions and that it was politically unstable," he says.

"*But tourists are beginning to recognise that nowhere else in the world can you trek at* 9,000ft, go white-water rafting and visit the wonders of Kathmandu Valley."

BA ends walk-on guaranteed seat for shuttle flights

By David Churchill

BRITISH AIRWAYS is planning to scrap its 21-year-old "turn up and go" guarantee on shuttle flights from the middle of next month as part of a thorough overhaul of its domestic services, the biggest for a decade.

The moves include the introduction of electronic ticketing, more scheduled services and improvements *to* aircraft and *terminals. But they have already been sharply criticised by a leading business travel agent as likely to cause* "confusion and inconvenience" for many travellers.

Jim Tweedie, the director of client services for Carlson Wagonlit Travel, said: "The end of the well-established system whereby travellers could simply turn up at the airport and be guaranteed a seat on the shuttle will inconvenience many *business* travellers who often have to change their flight at the last minute. This, in addition to the other changes being made, will cause a degree of confusion as well as lead to higher costs for the corporate traveller from the extra work involved."

BA said that *the decision to end the guaranteed seat on* shuttle flights to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester and Belfast after 21 years was made because 80 per cent of shuttle seats were already booked in advance.

In addition, the airline said that bigger aircraft and more frequent services meant that most passengers were likely to get the flight of their choice.

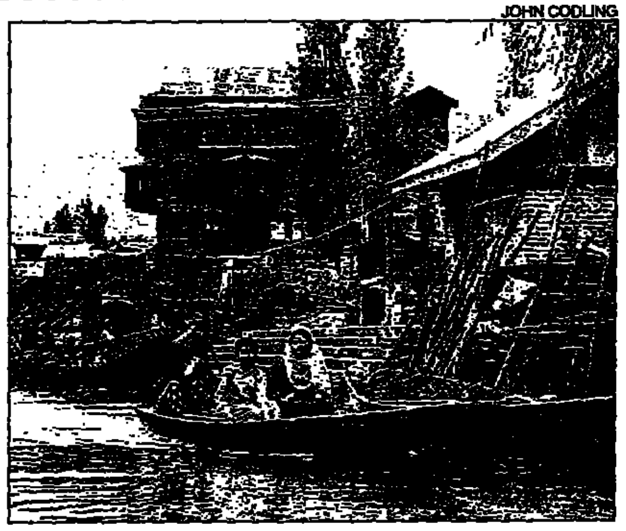
From March 12, all shuttle seats will have to be booked in advance, although anyone who turns up *at the airport may still be able to get onto a flight if space is* available.

Mr Tweedie added: "*But it means* for the popular business flights at certain times of the day, many executives will not be able to get on if they leave it too late to book."

BA is also phasing out its popular Timesaver tickets which enable regular shuttle travellers effectively to "write their own ticket" for a domestic flight. However, it *has responded to pressure from Carlson and agreed to end this* from April 30 rather than March 12 as planned.

The overall changes being introduced by BA are part of the move towards total "ticketless travel" on its domestic and possibly European flights. In addition to investment *in new electronic ticketing machines, the overhaul,* budgeted to cost £10 million, includes more scheduled flights from Gatwick, upgraded aircraft and improved lounges at regional airports.

JOHN CODLING



Kashmir is one of the places the FCO advises against

Britons, stay away

FOURTEEN countries and millions of square miles of the Earth's land surface have effectively been put out of bounds to British travellers, *Harvey Elliott writes.*

The Foreign Office (FCO) now advises against travel to 14 countries and says that another *six should be visited* only "*on essential business*".

A *combination of* civil war, famine, lawlessness and overt threats against foreigners has led the FCO to "advise against all travel" to countries from Africa to the Pacific.

British travellers, whether on business or pleasure, should avoid: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bougainville Island off *Papua New Guinea, Burundi, the Central African Republic,* the Chechen Republic, Iraq, Irian Jaya, Jammu and Kashmir in India, Kivu in Zaire, Liberia, Somalia, Tajikistan and Western Sahara. The FCO also warns travellers to go to Angola, Bosnia, Lesotho, Rwanda, east and southeastern Turkey and Zaire only if their business is essential.

A Foreign Office official comments: "All we can do is advise British nationals; we cannot prevent them from *visiting these places if they so wish. But adequate insurance* to cover all possible contingencies is absolutely essential."

Obtaining insurance cover for visits to countries on the FCO list is, of course, difficult.

The Association of British Insurers says: "Insurance companies do not expect people to put themselves into the *line of fire.* It may be *possible to find someone prepared to cover you for a particular trip* to one of the countries on the list, but it would be very expensive and would require the help of a specialist agency."

Flyers deserve greater safety

I am not a nervous flyer but I know that many airline passengers harbour terrible fears. Recent official *reports and statistics may give them good cause. Last year was the worst for fatal airline accidents.* There were 57 crashes in which 1,840 people died — 40 more than in 1985, which was the previous worst on record.

There are, of course, caveats. Of the 57 fatal accidents, 45 involved airlines registered in what are known as "developing economy" countries. So that part of the world which carries about 12 per cent of the world's airline traffic produced 80 per cent of the accidents. Twenty of the crashes involved freight, or other operations *not involving passengers. But still the total number* of accidents and deaths is rising. And many more aircraft are in the skies now than ever before.

In the latest issue of *The Log*, the journal of Balpa, the pilots' union, Bill Archer, the union's vice-chairman, voices *his disquiet over* "*a black year for aviation safety*". He worries *that the era when safety* was of *paramount importance, regardless of cost, may* be ending and *that* "today's demand for cheap travel, political objectives or deregulation, privatisation, competition and profit all compete with investment in safety and change the very bedrock upon which the industry was born and has developed".

The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

If Mr Archer, a senior BA Boeing 747 training captain and leader of all Europe's commercial pilots, is worried, *is it any wonder his passengers are also worried?*

His concerns also echo those of the Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) which has recently criticised a string of maintenance errors that almost led to disaster.

Now it reports that a Boeing 737 approaching Heathrow was thrown into a violent 50-degree roll by the wake from a Boeing 767 it was following at a distance of more *than six miles.* This *exceeded the normal five-mile separation limit and must make one question how close* together aircraft can safely fly. Yet as the landing rate at main airports increases, pressure is mounting to force aircraft ever closer.

There have been too many similar worrying incidents. And as the skies get busier and accountants tighten their control, the need for more dispassionate vigilance becomes urgent. The Civil Aviation *Authority (CAA) and the AAIB are held in international high regard* for their expertise and for persuading others to act swiftly to prevent any potential safety problem from becoming reality.

However, the CAA has become little more than a cog in a single European-wide safety organisation. Now it must wait for the slowest of the 26 countries that are members of *the European Joint Aviation Authorities to agree to some new demand, rather than act* unilaterally — and therefore quickly.

There may be powerful arguments in favour of a single European safety body. But passengers must have trust in its ability to act quickly, effectively and without a whisper of corruption. This *time* next year, that upward graph *of airline accidents must be seen to be heading down.* The CAA and the AAIB must show their independence and, if necessary, force others in Europe's ponderous safety "club" to follow.

SWIFTCALL

listen

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

USA 10p
Australia 20p
South Africa 40p
India 60p

• NEW PER SECOND BILLING •

1 This is how much you save

FLAT RATES ALL PRICES ARE IN PENCE PER MINUTE

[illegible]	SWIFTCALL	B.T.	[illegible]	SWIFTCALL	B.T.
[illegible]	20p	[illegible]	[illegible]	50p	[illegible]
[illegible]	16p	[illegible]	[illegible]	60p	[illegible]
[illegible]	60p	[illegible]	N.Zealand	30p	[illegible]
[illegible]	16p	[illegible]	[illegible]	70p	[illegible]
[illegible]	16p	[illegible]	[illegible]	80p	[illegible]
[illegible]	70p	[illegible]	[illegible]	40p	[illegible]
[illegible]	40p	[illegible]	S.Africa	40p	[illegible]
[illegible]	60p	[illegible]	[illegible]	40p	[illegible]
[illegible]	16p	[illegible]	[illegible]	70p	[illegible]
[illegible]	30p	[illegible]	USA	10p	[illegible]

2 This is how it works

- Pre payment of £25 entitles you to £25 of Swiftcall talktime. That's over 4 *hrs* to the USA.
- Access to our network is easy. *All you need is a touch tone phone to* call our international exchange *FREE* from anywhere in the U.K.

CALL US NOW

For information on hundreds of other destinations and to open an account

FREEPHONE 0800 769 0000
Please ask for extension 516

If you are reading this advert outside U.K. call +44 171 488 2001

New phonecards available at all good newsagents. Distributors urgently required to cope with massive demand. CALL NOW!

Operators are standing by 24hrs a day 7 days a week ready to take your call. Please have your credit card ready. Comparisons against B.T. standard weekday rate. Subject to change at 30 days notice. Prices correct at Feb 19th 1997.

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

RUGBY UNION

Pienaar pledges to honour his Saracens contract

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE politics of British rugby union have appeared tortuous at times since the advent of professionalism, but they are child's play compared with those of South African rugby. Tomorrow South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu) representatives will meet the Government over allegations of financial irregularities and debate their new coach after the decline and fall of André Markgraaff this week.

The Sarfu executive committee yesterday accepted Markgraaff's resignation after he acknowledged that he had brought the game into disrepute by making racist comments during a telephone conversation that was taped, and subsequently received widespread publication. Even so, Gary Teichmann and Joost van der Westhuizen, leading players, have offered Markgraaff support, Teichmann having taken over the captaincy after the services of Francois Pienaar were dispensed with last year.

Pienaar, now part of the increasingly-formidable Saracens team, underlined the damage done to South African rugby by Markgraaff's outburst. "It is a serious blow," he said. "We spent a lot of time building up trust among the communities and now this happens.

"I can't make any sense out of it, but people must remember it is the irresponsible view of one person, and not the view of the whole country, nor the view of the players. Even so, the feeling over here is going to be: 'Have there actually been so many changes in sport in South Africa?' "

Pienaar, who is contracted to Saracens for the next two years, did not see the removal of Markgraaff prefacing his own return to the national team. "I am a very loyal person and the people here at Saracens have shown great faith in me," he said. "I intend to repay that."

No successor as South Africa's coach is likely to be named until next week, though the Sarfu management committee will discuss the appointment tomorrow. At the same time union officials are to meet Steve Tshwete, the Minister for Sport, to discuss the terms of a government investigation into Sarfu finances. A dossier has been prepared by Brian van Rooyen — who stood against Louis Luyt for the post of Sarfu president last year — alleging mismanagement over sponsorship and television deals.

The management of the British Isles, who tour South Africa this summer, have brought forward the meeting in Birmingham of their squad at the request of England and Wales. It was scheduled for March 11, four days before the countries meet in Cardiff on the final day of the five nations' championship. It will now take place 24 hours earlier to give the squads the requisite time together.

The England team to play France at Twickenham on March 1 will be named today, France having restored Franck Tournaire and Alain Penaud to their squad yesterday. Tournaire, the Narbonne prop, returns after a one-match suspension; Penaud, the Brive stand-off half, faces a fitness test on an ankle today.

Ugo Mola, the uncapped Dax full back, is in the squad because of of injury to Richard Dourthe, his club colleague.

Christian Loader, the Swansea prop, will undergo a cartilage operation today, but hopes to face England.

FRANCE SQUAD: Backs: J-L Sadourny (Colomiers), U Mola (Dax), D Venditti (Brive), L Leflamand (Bourgoin), C Lamaison (Brive), S Glas (Bourgoin), A Penaud (Brive), D Aucagne (Pau), G Accoceberry (Bègles-Bordeaux), P Carbonneau (Brive). Forwards: C Califano (Toulouse), F Tournaire (Narbonne), J-L Jordana (Toulouse), M Dalmaso (Agen), M de Rougemont (Toulon), O Merle (Montferrand), H Miorin (Toulouse), F Pelous (Dax), A Benazzi (Agen), R Castel (Béziers), O Magne (Dax).

Harlequins must play cup tie at the Stoop

HARLEQUINS will play their Pilkington Cup quarter-final with Saracens on Sunday on their own ground at the Stoop (David Hands writes). Tentative inquiries yesterday about the use of Twickenham produced a negative response from the Rugby Football Union.

The problem for Harlequins is the state of their ground. Building work at the Stoop has obliged them to train as well as play on the main pitch and recent bad weather has turned it into a quagmire. On Tuesday they played Auckland and on Saturday they must honour their contract with London Broncos, who entertain Bradford Bulls in rugby league's Silk Cut Challenge Cup.

Leicester may play Newcastle in the cup on Saturday without Dean Richards, their captain. Richards had a cyst on his knee removed recently, but is still troubled by it. With Eric Miller already out because of the concussion that he received playing for Ireland last Saturday, Will Johnson stands by.

Stuart Potter, the centre, may also withdraw from the Leicester team after suffering whiplash in a road accident. Craig Joiner, the Scotland wing, will replace him, having recovered from a long-standing injury.

A day after being left out of the Scotland squad to face Ireland, Scott Hastings has now been ignored by the A team selectors. Derek Stark and Ronnie Eriksson, who were also dropped from the full squad, are included.

SCOTLAND A: D Lee (Watsonians); J Craig (West of Scotland), C Murray (Hawick), R Eriksson (London Scottish), D Stark (Melrose); A Donaldson (Currie), G Burns (Watsonians); G Graham (Newcastle), G Bulloch (West of Scotland), P Wright (Melrose), C Mather (Watsonians), S Campbell (Melrose), S Grimes (Watsonians), S Holmes (London Scottish), C Hogg (Melrose, captain).

☐ Jim Glennon, the former international lock, will manage the Ireland squad in the Under-19 World Cup tournament in Argentina between March 22 and 31.

Va'aiga Tuigamala in relaxed mood after completing his move from Wigan to Newcastle. Report, page 48

TENNIS

Enqvist joins string of fallen seeds

By Our Sports Staff

TIM HENMAN, the Great Britain No 1, was one of only three surviving seeds in the European Community championship in Antwerp after the defeat last night of Thomas Enqvist, of Sweden, who went down 6-4, 6-7, 3-6 to Francisco Clavet, of Spain.

Enqvist, the No 3 seed, who won the Marseilles tournament last weekend, was on court for little more than two hours before giving best to Clavet, the world No 34.

"It was a very tough match," Enqvist said. "The balls here are very different from those we used in Marseilles. I couldn't feel them very well on my racket. I had my chances in the second set, but I'm tired mentally after winning the singles and doubles in Marseilles."

Enqvist, who played for Sweden against France in the Davis Cup final last December, looked like winning in straight sets until Clavet, playing only his second match of the year, forced the second set into a tie-break, which he won.

Enqvist broke Clavet's service to lead 2-1 in the third, but Clavet was in control after that, winning on his first match point.

In addition to Enqvist, the tournament has also lost, through injury, Boris Becker and Goran Ivanisevic, the No 1 seed, neither of whom got on court. Also out are Michael Stich and Jim Courier. Enqvist's defeat left Marcelo Rios, of Chile, Felix Mantilla, of Spain, and Henman as the remaining seeds.

Rios, from Chile, trounced Adrian Voinea, of Romania, 6-1, 6-4 in his first round match, showing no sign of the muscle strain that caused him to withdraw in the second set of the final in Marseilles.

He was passed fit to play in Antwerp after treatment by a physiotherapist and produced near flawless tennis in the first set of a match that featured some breathtaking rallies.

Rios fell 2-0 behind early in the second set, but quickly fought back to take the match in little more than an hour, the organisers no doubt highly relieved that their new top seed had passed his first test so convincingly.

The event, which offers a diamond-studded gold trophy to any player able to win it three times in five years, has been hit hard by illness and injury. Yevgeny Kafelnikov, of Russia, and Carlos Moya, of Spain, a finalist in the Australia Open, pulled out earlier this month.

Cardiff seek to secure quick finish

PAUL HEAVEY, the coach, is determined that Cardiff Devils should clinch the inaugural Superleague ice hockey title at the first opportunity tonight. The Devils need just one point from their penultimate game, at home to Manchester Storm, to give the league's only British coach his first honour.

"We want to finish it off quickly," Heavey said. "We've put ourselves in a very strong position with our two away wins at Ayr and Newcastle last weekend. They were huge results really. It would be the highlight of my career if we win the title, but, without sounding biased, I think we deserve it."

Buxton quits

Football: Mick Buxton yesterday became the season's latest managerial casualty when he left Scunthorpe United, the Nationwide League third division club, by mutual consent after they was beaten at home by Chester City on Tuesday night in front of a crowd of only 1,524.

Scunthorpe have lost five of their past seven league matches and are sixteenth in the table. Buxton, the former Sunderland and Huddersfield Town manager, took over at Scunthorpe 11 months ago.

NFL recruits

American football: Perry Klein and Kerry Joseph, NFL quarterbacks, have been loaned to the London Monarchs for the World League season. Joseph, who set 12 school records at McNeese State, is registered with Cincinnati Bengals and Klein is a free agent.

Stateside

Football: The 1999 women's World Cup finals will be held in the United States, Fifa, the world governing body, announced in Zurich yesterday. Qualifying will take place between August 1997 and December 1998.

Drugs ban

Athletics: Romania's athletics federation said yesterday that it had banned Iulia Negura, the European cross country champion, for two years for failing a drugs test last November.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

Yesterday I discussed the early part of the play on this embarrassing hand. Brian Senior was West and I was East.

Dealer West North-South game IMPs

North:
♠ J 8 7 6
♥ —
♦ K J 10 8
♣ K J 8 7 3

West:
♠ 3 2
♥ Q 10 9 7 5 2
♦ A 6 5 3
♣ 4

East:
♠ A Q 4
♥ A 8 4
♦ 9 7 4
♣ A 10 6 2

South:
♠ K 10 9 5
♥ K J 6 3
♦ Q 2
♣ Q 9 5

Contract: Four Hearts Doubled, by South *Lead: Four of clubs*

West opened Two Hearts (weak). North doubled. I raised to Three Hearts and South bid Four Spades, which I doubled. Declarer (Graham Horsley) played the jack of clubs from dummy on the opening lead. I won with the ace, and the declarer played the nine from hand. I returned the six of clubs. Senior ruffed and, suffering from an excess of blood-lust, returned the diamond three. Cashing the ace of diamonds would have been more commercial.

Declarer played the eight of diamonds from dummy, and won my nine with the queen. He crossed to dummy with a heart ruff and led the seven of spades. This was our last chance. I thought it unlikely that Senior had the ace of diamonds, so I decided to play him for the ten and two of spades. That way, by playing low, I could make two trump tricks.

The seven of spades held the trick. Now, declarer continued with a club to the queen, a second heart ruff, the king of clubs — throwing a diamond — and a diamond ruff. That left declarer with ♠ K 10 and ♥ K J, with dummy holding a trump, two diamonds and a winning club. As East I held ♠ A Q, ♥ A and a diamond. Declarer ruffed a third heart in dummy, bringing down my ace, and, when he led a winning club off the table, I could make only one more trick. Our ace of diamonds had gone missing.

I should have realised that our only chance was that West had the ace of diamonds. West's three of diamonds at trick three was likely to be from an honour. And, if declarer had the ace of diamonds and West the ten of spades, declarer would have started the spades by leading the jack from dummy. I have to win the first round of spades and play a diamond.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HAPTOTROPISM
a. Divination by feel
b. Whirling dervishry
c. Responding to touch

LYCID
a. Wolflike
b. The tip of a stamen
c. Beetling

MOULI
a. A Moroccan Spaniard
b. An electric screw
c. A mixer

HOPO
a. A baby hippo
c. An Indian tribe
c. A trap

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Shock tactics

I have already commented in this column on the somewhat unorthodox approach to openings employed by many British grandmasters. Whereas the Russian school, exemplified primarily by Kasparov, relishes long theoretical variations, the standard British approach is to adopt unusual lines, with the objective of throwing the opponent off balance. The game today, a win by Michael Adams, the Great Britain No 2, against a member of the world elite, shows this strategy working to perfection.

White: Michael Adams
Black: Boris Gelfand
Linares, February 1997

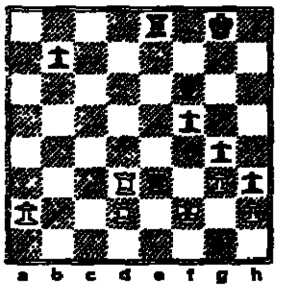
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	Bc4	Nf6
4	d3	Nc6
5	Bb3	g6
6	c3	Bg7
7	Nbd2	0-0
8	0-0	b6
9	Re1	Ba6
10	Nf1	Ne5
11	Bc2	Nfd7
12	Bg5	h6
13	Bh4	Nxd3+
14	Qxf3	Ne5
15	Qd1	Nc6
16	Ne3	Qc7
17	f4	f5
18	exf5	gxf5
19	Qh5	e6
20	g4	Bb7
21	gxf5	exf5
22	d4	Nxd4
23	cxd4	Bxd4
24	Qg6+	Qg7
25	Qxg7+	Kxg7
26	Rad1	Be4
27	Be7	Rfe8
28	Bxe4	fxe4
29	Bxd6	Bxb2
30	Nf5+	Kg6
31	Ng3	Bd4+
32	Kg2	e3
33	Kf3	h5
34	f5+	Kf6
35	h4	Rg8
36	Bf4	Rae8
37	Ne4+	Rxe4
38	Kxe4	Rg4
39	Kf3	Rxh4
40	Rh1	e2
41	Rde1	Black resigns

Correction

The diagram for the concluding position of the game yesteray between Shirov and Kasparov from Linares was printed incorrectly. Here is the correct final position.

Diagram of final position



White resigned on account of 39. Rxe3 Rxe3; 40. Kxe3 Bg5+; 41. Ke2 Bxd2; 42. Kxd2 f4; 43. gxf4 g3; 44. hxg3 h2. This forced variation, which both sides clearly saw was inevitable, leads to Black promoting his h-pawn to a new queen.

Jersey Open

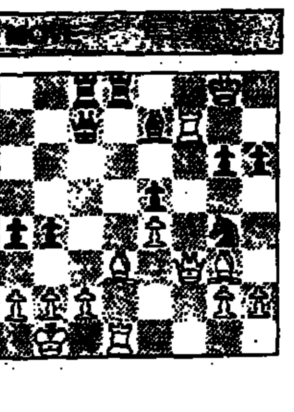
In the Deloitte and Touche Jersey Open, grandmaster Bogdan Lalic leads after three rounds with a 100 per cent score.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Vadla — Sale, Zagreb, 1997. White has broken through on the f-file and seems to have a strong position. However, his penetration to f7 has also left his pieces in a vulnerable situation. Can you see how Black exploited this?



Solution on page 46

ATHLETICS

MOSCOW: Indoor meeting (Russia unless stated): Men: 60m: 1, O Ezinwa (Nigeria) 6.70sec; 2, P Galkin 6.76; 3, S Kononyuk 6.77. 200m: 1, Ezinwa 21.38; 2, M Gyula (Hun) 21.57; 3, D Bey 21.58. 400m: 1, R Mashchenko 46.26; 2, D Golovastov 47.38; 3, U Ekpenyong (Nigeria) 47.52. 1,500m: 1, W Tanui (Ken) 3min 39.40sec; 2, J Mayock (GB) 3:40.59; 3, M O'Sullivan (Ire) 3:40.67. 60m hurdles: 1, I Kovac (Cz) 7.65sec; 2, A Kislykh 7.79; 3, A Markov 7.87. Pole vault: E Smiryagin 5.40m. Triple jump: 1, A Aseledchenko 17.10; 2, D Kapustin 16.95; 3, V Sokov 16.76.

Women: 60m: 1, I Privalova 7.08sec; 2, N Merzlyakova 7.26; 3, N Roshchupkina 7.34. 200m: 1, N Voronova 23.15; 2, S Goncharenko 23.24; 3, P Davis (Bah) 23.37. 400m: 1, H Benesova (Cz) 52.70; 2, O Kotlyarova 52.84; 3, A Kozak (Bela) 53.27. 800m: 1, N Dukhnova (Bela) 2min 00.65sec; 2, L Formanova (Cz) 2:01.31; 3, Y Podkopayeva 2:02.14. 60m hurdles: 1, N Grigoryeva (Ukr) 8.13sec; 2, S Laukhova 8.22; 3, Y Graudin 8.27. High jump: 1, I Babakova (Ukr) 1.97m; 2, O Bolshova (Mol) 1.91; 3, T Motkova 1.91. Long jump: 1, T Vaszi (Hun) 6.64; 2, Y Sinshukova (Rus) 6.62; 3, L Berezhnaya (Ukr) 6.62. Triple jump: 1, I Lasovskaya 14.63; 2, A Hansen (GB) 14.38; 3, N Kayukova 14.22. Shot: 1, S Krivelyova 19.32; 2, V Fedyushina (Ukr) 18.29; 3, I Khudorozhkina 18.16.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York 95 Phoenix 94; Miami 111 Philadelphia 83; Utah 113 San Antonio 105; Chicago 134 Denver 123; LA Clippers 87 Dallas 69; Sacramento 95 Minnesota 84.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Newcastle 92 Derby 80

BOXING

CHESHUNT: Commonwealth bantamweight championship (12 rnds): Paul Lloyd (England, holder) ko Lybo Nkoko (SA) 1st rnd. Southern area super-bantamweight championship (12 rnds, vacant): Spencer Oliver (Barnet) bt Pat Mullings (Harrow), rsc 10th rnd. Southern area light-welterweight championship (12 rnds, vacant): Bernard Paul (Tottenham) bt Richie Edwards (Greenford) pts. Super-feather (8 rnds): Barrana Dibateza (Zaire) bt Patrick Gallagher (Wood Green) pts. Middle (8 rnds): Howard Beastman (Battersea) ko John Duckworth (Burnley) 7th rnd

CRESTA RUN

GEORGES PRADE CUP: 1, M Child (GB) 2min 33.67sec; 2, Lord Dalmeny (GB) 2:34.0; 3, A Hervey (GB) 2:34.75; 4, J Woolf (GB) 2:38.04; 5, C Tesdorpf (Ger) 2:36.36; 6, M Motter (Switz) 2:38.81.

CRICKET

DHAKA: SAARC tournament (50 overs): Bangladesh 182-9; Pakistan A 186-4 (Asif Mujtaba 67). Pakistan A won by 6 wkts

CYCLING

RUTA DEL SOL: Third stage (Lucena to Jaen, 159 kilometres): 1, G Salmeron (Sp, Saeco) 4hr 15min 16sec; 2, E Zabel (Ger, Telekom) at 9sec; 3, J Museeuw (Bel, Mapei); 4, D Etxebarria (Sp, ONCE); 5, E Vlatcheslav (Russ, US Postal); 6, A Bugallo (Sp, Euskadi) all same time. Leading overall positions: 1, Zabel 11hr 23min 32sec; 2, Museeuw; 3, A Canzonieri (It, Saeco); 4, D Etxebarria (Sp, ONCE); 5, F Andreu (US, Cofidis); 6, M Diez (Sp, ONCE), all same time

LAIGUEGLIA: Laigueglia Trophy (169km): 1, M Bartoli (It) 4hr 14min 47sec; 2, F Frattini (It); 3, F Casagrande (It); 4, B Zberg (Switz), all same time

KOTA KINABALU: Tour de Langkawi: Time-trial (19.1km): 1, E Wohlberg (Can) 24min 09sec; 2, A Mizourov (Kaz) at 27 sec; 3, R Green (Can) at 33; 4, P Manning (GB) at 34; 22, M Postle (GB) at 1min 0sec; 34, J Tanner (GB) at 1:27.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 5 Calgary 5; Pittsburgh 4 Florida 2; Ottawa 6 Washington 1; Colorado 3 Boston 2; Phoenix 6 Los Angeles 1; Toronto 6 Vancouver 5; San Jose 3 Dallas 1.

SUPERLEAGUE: Nottingham 8 Bracknell 2

RUGBY LEAGUE

Representative match

RAF 6 Gt Britain U-23 38
(at RAF Uxbridge)

RUGBY UNION

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Bristol 16 Gloucester 13.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wasps	12	10	0	2	351	256	20
Leicester	12	9	0	3	362	202	18
Bath	12	8	0	4	474	256	16
Harlequins	13	8	0	5	468	279	16
Sale	11	7	1	3	322	224	15
Northampton	13	7	0	6	289	266	14
Gloucester	13	7	0	6	315	316	14
Saracens	11	6	1	4	273	241	13
Bristol	*13*	*4*	*0*	*9*	*250*	*408*	*8*
W Hartlepool	13	3	0	10	259	435	6
London Irish	11	2	0	9	265	392	4
Orrell	12	1	0	11	139	492	2

CLUB MATCHES: Cambridge Univ 25 Army 25; Oxford Univ 0 Royal Navy 28.

SNOOKER

ABERDEEN: International Open (England unless stated): Second round: S Hendry (Scot) bt G Wilkinson 5-3; P Ebdon bt D McLellan 5-0; J Parrott bt J Johnson 5-2. Third round: A McManus (Scot) bt S Pannell 5-1

SQUASH

SUPER LEAGUE: Rowlands Manchester 2 Dunraven Maesteg 1 (Manchester names first: D Ryan bt M Cairns 9-6, 9-0, 5-9, 2-9, 9-3; A Gough bt P Gregory 10-8, 9-6, 9-10, 9-6; M Barrett lost to C Van der Wath 4-9, 2-9, 3-9). Surbiton 2 ICL Lionhearts 1 (Surbiton names first: S Parke lost to D Harris 9-7, 2-9, 7-9, 8-10; J Boswell bt D Jenson 6-9, 9-5, 8-10, 9-8, 10-9; T Hands bt R Durbach 8-9, 9-7, 8-10, 9-6, 9-4). League positions: 1, Rowlands Manchester 9pts; 2, Dunraven Maesteg 7; 3, Surbiton 7; 4, ICL Lionhearts 7; 5, Ellis Lingfield 6.

TENNIS

ANTWERP: Men's tournament: First round: C van Garsse (Bel) bt R Furlan (It) 7-5, 6-3; C Pioline (Fr) bt J Courier (US) 6-0, 6-2; P Korda (Cz) bt D van Scheppingen (Holl) 6-3, 6-2; J van Herck (Bel) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 6-2, 6-4. Second round: M Rosset (Switz) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

MEMPHIS: Men's tournament (US unless stated): First round: S Sargsian (Arm) bt J Stark 6-7, 7-6, 6-4; J A Viloca (Sp) bt S Schalken (Holl) 6-4, 4-6, 6-0; G Raoux (Fr) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-4, 6-4; A Radulescu (Ger) bt M Joyce 7-5, 4-6, 6-0; R Fromberg (Aus) bt P McEnroe 7-6, 6-3; J Tarango bt G Blanco (Sp) 6-2, 6-3. Second round: T Woodbridge (Aus) bt S Lareau (Can) 6-4, 7-6; M Norman (Swe) bt M Philippoussis (Aus) 6-4, 7-5; K Carlsen (Den) bt J Eltingh (Holl) 7-6, 6-3; M Chang bt P Rafter (Aus) 6-2, 6-4.

EASTBOURNE: Men's tournament (GB unless stated): First round: T Ketola (Fin) bt D Draper 6-3, 7-6; C Haggard (SA) bt R Kokavec (Can) 6-2, 6-1; I Chelychev (Russ) bt T Spinks 2-6, 6-1, 6-4; J Delgado bt M Lee 7-6, 6-4; V Liukko (Fin) bt M Hantschk (Ger) 2-6, 6-3, 6-2; A Musil (Cz) bt N Gould 6-4, 6-3; M Bazzolini (It) bt O Casey (Ire) 6-2, 2-6, 6-2; D van Uffelen (Bel) bt T Larkham (Aus) 6-4, 6-1.

HANOVER: Women's tournament: First round: R Dragomir (Rom) bt B Rittner (Ger) 4-6, 6-3, 7-5; E Likhovtseva (Rus) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 4-6, 7-6, 6-2; D van Roost (Bel) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 7-6, 4-6, 6-3; B Schultz-McCarthy (Holl) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-4, 7-6; A Carlsson (Swe) bt F Perfetti (It) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; A-G Sidot (Fr) bt C Singer (Ger) 7-6, 6-2.

OKLAHOMA CITY: Women's tournament (US unless stated): First round: K Nagatsuka (Japan) bt A Grossman 6-4, 7-6; S Cacic bt K Adams 7-6, 6-2; A Dechaume Balleret (Fr) bt G Helgeson Nielsen 6-4, 6-4; M Tu bt A Galvadon (Mex) 6-2, 2-6, 7-5; M Grzybowska (Pol) bt E Brioukhovets (Ukr) 7-6, 3-6, 6-3; M Werdel Witmeyer (US) bt N Miyagi (Japan) 4-6, 3-5 ret; J Capriati bt M A Vento (Ven) 6-3, 6-4; K Po bt T Whitlinger Jones 7-6, 6-4; P Shriver bt P Hy-Boulais (Can) 7-5, 6-7, 6-3.

REDBRIDGE: LTA women's tournament (GB unless stated): First round: O Lugina (Ukr) bt M Landa (Arg) 6-3, 5-7, 6-3; M Sánchez Lorenzo (Sp) bt J Pullin 2-6, 6-2, 7-6; E Savoldi (Austria) bt E Zardo (Switz) 6-2, 6-4; T Poutchek (Bel) bt L Richterova (Cz) 6-4, 1-0 ret. Second round: C Taylor bt L Latimer 6-3, 6-1; E Tatarkova (Ukr) bt S Georges (Fr) 6-1, 6-2; M Sánchez Lorenzo (Sp) bt L Ahl 6-2, 7-5; N Dechy (Fr) bt V Csurgo (Hun) 1-6, 6-2, 6-4; P Gaspar (Hun) bt S Rottier (Holl) 7-6, 7-5; T Poutchek (Bela) bt E Savoldi (Austria) 6-4, 6-1.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24pts £1,022.10, 23 £28.05, 22 £2.70. Half-time result: Max 24pts: 2.25 prizes of £111,111.15. Four draws: £3.80. Ten homes: £249.80. Five aways: £3,504.45.

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £339.50, 23 £8.95, 22 £1.80. Premier 10: £289.

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £40.10, 23 £1.85. Eight aways: No max 24pts winners; 23pts £183.55, 22 £2.90, 21 £0.55. Four draws (nothing barred): £3. Eight homes (nothing barred): £10.40. Four aways: £126.40. Super 7: £108.60. Lucky numbers: 3 28 4 37 31 10.

FOOTBALL

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Ramsgate (7.30)

SCHOOLS MATCHES (kick-off 2.0 unless stated): FA Premier League under-16 Trophy: Sussex v Middlesex (at Saffrons, 3.0). London Cup: Middlesex v Kent (at Greenford). English School Snickers under-19 Trophy: Barry Boys, Cardiff v King's, Cheshire (11.0). English Schools girls under-16 Vimto Trophy: Greendown Community, Wiltshire v Thornden, Hampshire.

OTHER SPORT

ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Bracknell v Sheffield (8.0); Cardiff v Manchester (7.0).

SNOOKER: International Open (in Aberdeen).

Folkestone

Going: soft (chase course); heavy (hurdles)

2.10 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, MUSEUM (X Aizpuru, 8-1); 2, Dissolve (Mr L Baker, 9-1); 3, Tathmin (J Lawrence, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Theme Arena (4th), 9-2 Kentavrus Way, 5 Swinging Sixties (5th), 8 Docklands Courier, 10 Danny Gale, Waltang Reel (6th), 12 Royrace (pu), 16 Flow Back, 33 Patong Beach (pu). 12 ran. 11l, ¾l, 24l, 8l, 9l. P Winkworth at Dunsfold. Tote: £9.70; £3.10, £3.90, £4.70. DF: £30.40. Trio: £214.40. CSF: £81.04. Tricast: £757.68.

2.40 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, RARE SPREAD (A P McCoy, 9-4 fav); 2, Scorpion Bay (J Magee, 16-1); 3, Spring Muslin (Sophie Mitchell, 11-4). ALSO RAN: 8 Emma Bold (5th), Piper's Rock (pu), 10 Ecu De France (6th), 14 St Mellion Leisure (pu), Wise 'N' Shine, 16 Babu Sam (pu), Double Trouble, Serious Option (pu), Tecroma (4th), 25 Seven Crowns (pu), 33 Dofner (pu). 14 ran. NR: Roskeen Bridge, Vancouver Lad. 16l, 1l, 20l, 11l, dist. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £3.40; £1.50, £12.40, £1.50. DF: £162.30. Trio: £18.60. CSF: £44.05.

3.10 (2m ch) 1, BUCKLAND LAD (S Fenton, 15-8 fav; Richard Evans's nap); 2, Fenwick (T Dascombe, 13-2); 3, Rebel Runner (Mr T Hills, 4-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Oxford Quill (pu), 7 Drewitts Dancer (ur), 15-2 Red Bean (4th), 25 Rustic Gent (5th). 7 ran. 1¼l, 2½l, 15l, 24l. D Gasell at Robertsbridge. Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £4.10. DF: £7.00. CSF: £12.89.

3.40 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, KILLING TIME (D J Burchell, 14-1); 2, Parisian (A Lucas, 16-1); 3, Precious Wonder (T J Murphy, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Script, 5 Densbay (5th), 6 Team Janine (4th), 7 Vallantha, 9 Tilt Tech Flyer (pu), 14 Celtic Lilley (6th), 16 Al Hawl, Aldwick Colonnade, Deptford Belle, 20 Side Bar. 13 ran. NR: Annabel's Baby, Olympol. ¾l, 3l, 1l, 21l, 1l. D Burchell at Ebbw Vale. Tote: £75.70; £3.90, £12.00, £1.80. DF: £250.80. Trio: £505.10. CSF: £224.00. Tricast: £1,580.78.

4.10 (2m 5f ch) 1, TRIFAST LAD (Mr P Hacking, 11-10 fav); 2, Sands Of Gold (Mr L Lay, 12-1); 3, King High (Mr C Ward, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Gypsy King (5th), 11-2 Greybury Lane (ur), 8 Dashboard Light (pu), 10 Centre Stage, 16 Astound (4th), 20 Doctor Dan (f), 33 Ell Gee (6th). 10 ran. 2½l, 8l, 4l, 1l, dist. M Roberts at Hailsham. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £3.30, £20.40. DF: £20.00. Trio: £243.40. CSF: £15.87.

4.40 (2m 6f 110yd hdle) 1, MILLMOUNT (D Bridgwater, 5-1); 2, Ainsi Soit Il (D Fortt, 3-1); 3, Roger's Pal (D Gallagher, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 11-4 fav August Twelfth (4th), 5 Monks Soham (5th), Mullintor (pu), 8 Lapadhal (6th), 25 Celtic Laird (pu). 8 ran. 4l, 18l, dist, 10l, 5l. T McGovern at Haywards Heath. Tote: £8.00; £2.30, £1.60, £4.20. DF: £13.40. CSF: £20.28. Tricast: £259.57.

Jackpot: £14,680.20 (0.1 winning tickets. Pool of £18,808.81 carried forward to Wincanton today).

Placepot: £1,219.80. Quadpot: £128.40.

Wolverhampton

Going: standard

2.00 (7f) 1, MYSTERIUM (T G McLaughlin, 25-1); 2, Sharpo Wassl (D Holland, 8-13 fav); 3, Quaffair Silver (L Charnock, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Heathyard's Flight, Warp Drive (5th), 11 Who's That Man (6th), 12 Solar Dawn, 14 Harry's Treat (4th), 20 Sweet Seventeen, 25 Ron's Round, 33 Plenty Of Sunshine. 11 ran. Nk, 2½l, 2l, 1½l, 4l. N Littmoden at Wolverhampton. Tote: £33.70; £4.30, £1.50, £6.60. DF: £37.20. Trio: £140.20. CSF: £38.25.

2.30 (7f) 1, DUKE VALENTINO (D Griffiths, 10-11 fav; Thunderer's nap); 2, Jigsaw Boy (S Drowne, 9-2); 3, Bogart (K Fallon, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 5 Sea Devil (4th), 6 Bentico (5th), 8 Bold Faith, 9 Miletrian City (6th), 33 Peaceful Reply. 8 ran. 3½l, 2½l, 2½l, ½l, nk. R Hollinshead. Tote: £2.30; £1.10, £2.10, £3.10. DF: £6.70. CSF: £6.23.

3.00 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, PUZZLEMENT (Dale Gibson, 7-2); 2, Globetrotter (D Holland, 9-2); 3, Pinchincha (N Day, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 3-1 fav Mardrew (6th), 4 Brocture Line (5th), 15-2 Aspecto Lad, 14 Time Can Tell (4th). 7 ran. 2½l, 3l, ½l, 1l, 14l. C Brittain at Newmarket. Tote: £3.80; £2.00, £2.20. DF: £5.80. CSF: £20.31.

3.30 (1m 4f) 1, LEADING SPIRIT (D Holland, 13-8 fav); 2, Nikita's Star (D Harrison, 4-1); 3, Second Colours (K Fallon, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 5 China Castle (4th), 8 Bardon Hill Boy (6th), Super High, 10 Prince Danzig (5th), 14 Dancing Cavalier, 25 Obelos. 9 ran. 6l, nk, 1l, 4l, 16l. C Wall at Newmarket. Tote: £2.90; £1.10, £1.40, £3.40. DF: £7.90. Trio: £29.30. CSF: £8.44. Tricast: £41.11.

4.00 (1m 100yd) 1, BAILIEBOROUGH BOY (D Harrison, 3-1); 2, Zorba (K Fallon, Evens fav); 3, Riscatto (A Clark, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Ejeer (4th), 9 Contravene (5th), 16 Taome. 6 ran. Hd, 2½l, 2½l, 10l. T Barron. Tote: £3.60; £1.90, £1.20. DF: £2.40. CSF: £7.17.

4.30 (5f) 1, THE HAPPY FOX (L Newton, 16-1); 2, Madrina (P Fessey, 14-1); 3, Sing With The Band (S Righton, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Antonias Melody, 6 Broadstairs Beauty (4th), Dande Flyer, Gi La High (6th), 7 Ramsey Hope, 8 Chemcast, Napier Star, 12 Chadwell Hall (5th), 16 Sotonian, 20 Night Harmony. 13 ran. ¾l, ¾l, nk, 1¾l, 1l. B McMahon at Tamworth. Tote: £12.70; £3.00, £4.20, £9.50. DF: £115.80. Trio: £515.70. CSF: £225.08. Tricast: £2,414.37.

Placepot: £770.40. Quadpot: £196.30.

RACING

Jockey Club tests grounds for concern

By Julian Muscat

THE 21 jockeys who refused to ride at Haydock Park in October will today learn whether their halting of racing on safety grounds will be punished by racing's authorities. The Jockey Club's disciplinary committee yesterday opened an inquiry into the incident when jockeys closed the changing room door before the second race of the afternoon. Some who rode in the opener deemed the ground unsafe, but the Haydock stewards — after examining the surface with a deputation of senior jockeys — insisted racing should go ahead.

Rarely has the Jockey Club presided over so complicated an inquiry. The disciplinary committee spent yesterday taking statements from most of the 19 witnesses. That process will be completed this morning before the committee engages in debate with legal representatives of jockeys.

Eleven of the 21 who refused to ride were present yesterday, together with Walter Swinburn and Willie Ryan, who were at Haydock but had no mount in the second race. They are not among the 21 who face sanction but they were influential in the jockeys' collective action.

The offending strip of ground was around the home turn. After heavy rain, Philip Arkwright, the clerk of the course, resited the running rail to create a fresh strip five yards wide. He subsequently penned a memo to all jockeys, describing the going beyond the fresh strip as "very bad".

Important principles are at stake for both sides, a fact implicit in the pre-inquiry posturing from the Jockeys' Association. It implied only the jockeys and not course officials were on trial. The club was quick to refute this, but the jockeys' case is compelling enough without questioning the inquiry procedure. Their argument is entirely centred on safety. To deviate from that fundamental concern is not in their interests, nor is the acrimony which infiltrated the inquiry before it started.

The dispute has been headlined as jockeys flexing their muscles against authority. Frankie Dettori, central to the case in that he was vehemently opposed to riding, was portrayed by some owners and trainers as having ideas above his station. One can trust the disciplinary committee to look beyond such narrow confines in reaching its verdict.

It is clear that a lack of communication was one of the architects of the stand-off. Jockeys claim the first they heard of the abandonment was an announcement over the public address system. And it does not help their case that some of the 21 have since said they would have been happy to ride.

But the Haydock stewards also appear to have a case to answer. Jockey Club officials conceded yesterday it was "unusual" for memos of the type written by Arkwright to be circulated. Furthermore, it must be debatable whether a strip of ground five yards wide is sufficient for fields of up to 17 runners, as there would have been at Haydock.

Should the jockeys be found in breach of the Rules, they can expect stiff fines. Eight years ago 11 jockeys returned from the start of race at Beverley after rain saturated the course. Racing was delayed while stewards assessed the track. On its resumption, eight jockeys subsequently rode in the race — but all 11 were fined, five of them £750.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HARVEST VIEW
(3.35 Wincanton)
Next best: *Nishamira*
(3.50 Huntingdon)

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT

Tony McCoy signs autographs before his comeback ride, Theme Arena, at Folkestone yesterday. McCoy, who has been out of action for four weeks because of a fractured left shoulder and broken collarbone, could finish only fourth on Theme Arena but went on to win the Lympne Novices' Claiming Hurdle on Rare Spread.

Just Little holds major chance

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

WINCANTON
CHANNEL 4

2.05: ***Shankar*** *was more than a stone better than his rivals over hurdles and David Nicholson will have ensured he has been well schooled for his fencing debut.* Indian Jockey was a bit of a monkey over hurdles, but jumped well when making all the running to score impressively enough on his chasing debut at Taunton 20 days ago. He looks a bigger danger than Scottish Bambi, who carries a double penalty.

2.35: *In what should prove to be a fascinating Cheltenham Gold Cup trial,* ***Unguided Missile*** *is just preferred to* Coome Hill. Gordon Richards's chaser is 8lb better than the Hennessy Gold Cup winner at these weights according to official ratings and, just as important, he should be better suited by today's conditions. He has plenty of pace, which is ideal for this sharp track, and should see out the trip provided the ground remains genuinely good.

Any further rain would favour Coome Hill and bring his proven stamina into play. Maamur beat Unguided Missile (failed to stay on stiffer track) at Cheltenham last March, but is having his first run since.

3.05: Plenty of pace likely with front runners such as Ground Nut and Potentate in the field, which should suit **Just Little**. Aidan O'Brien's suitably named hurdler won easily at *the Murphy's meeting and* was in the process of running an even better race at Cheltenham the next day when she fell two out, holding every chance against Space Trucker, the eventual winner. That form looks better than anything else on show here. Zabadi ran a stinker in the Tote Gold Trophy along with Romancer, who was having his first run of the season. He would hold claims if repeating his County Hurdle second from last year.

3.35: ***Harvest View*** *looks to be on a handy mark for her handicap debut after beating Guinda at Uttoxeter 12 days ago in her first chase.* That is reasonable form and she receives 17lb from Five To Seven, who has been runner-up in all four starts this term and looks a shade one-paced. Chief Joseph has clearly had her problems but won a chase 20 months ago, is fairly treated on that form and goes well fresh.

HUNTINGDON
CHANNEL 4

2.50: Kings Witness was the best of these on the Flat, and he finished a respectable fourth behind Shadow Leader (won again since) at Folkestone. However, his hurdling was poor and he lost ground at several flights. Exalted looks the value choice. He was a good second at Warwick behind Fitzwilliam, and should improve for the run.

3.20: ***Eastern Magic****, who blundered away his chance last time, is a tentative choice in a race with question marks against most runners.* Regal Romper and Fine Harvest prefer faster ground. Random Assault is prone to jumping errors and Thumbs Up finds little under pressure. With plenty of pace likely, the normally held up Eastern Magic should have the race run to suit.

Richard Evans

One Man given Cheltenham Gold Cup objective

By Our Racing Staff

ONE MAN is likely to run in the Cheltenham Gold Cup next month after being withdrawn yesterday from the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

Plans for the dual King George VI Chase winner had been fluid since *an unconvincing Cheltenham success last month raised doubts about his suitability for the Gold Cup, in* which he was a well-beaten favourite last year.

However, the attraction of the two-mile Champion Chase was reduced when One Man was beaten in the 2½-mile Comet Chase at Ascot. Gordon Richards, his trainer, said yesterday: "He'll probably run in the Gold Cup as I think he will have a better chance in that race. *He's all right after Ascot and it was my fault that he was below form there as I ran him too quickly. He was very flat* and showed no sparkle."

Ladbrokes responded with a quote of 10-1 about One Man, who had previously been offered at 8-1 "with a run". All the market leaders in the Gold Cup stood their ground in the Gold Cup, including Richards's other candidates Addington Boy, The Grey Monk and Unguided Missile.

Like Richards, Tom Foley has set out his stall by withdrawing his Gold Cup hope, Danoli, from his alternative engagement in the Guinness Arkle Chase. The Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup winner is among 20 withdrawals from the two-mile novices' chase, who also include the Champion Hurdle candidate, Relkeel, and Monday's Hereford failure Master Tribe.

Josh Gifford *has kept his options open for the unbeaten Boardroom Shuffle, who has been left in the* Champion Hurdle and the Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle. Other first-season hurdlers, I'm Supposin, Juyush and Sanmartino, are still in the Champion Hurdle, for which last year's Supreme Novices' Hurdle winner, Indefence, is the most notable of 17 withdrawals.

Paddy's Return, last year's Triumph Hurdle winner, has also been *removed from the Champion but is in the Bonusprint Stayers' Hurdle.*

[illegible]

THUNDERER

1.50 Sir Dante
2.20 Eastern River
2.50 Exalted
3.20 Newlands-General
3.50 Nishamira
4.25 Mandys Mantino
4.55 Willy Star

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.25 **MANDYS MANTINO.**

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

1.50 UNIQUE CONSULTANTS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

(£3,176: 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

1	F20	TOBY BROWN 16 (A Stennett) D Nicholson 4-11-10	R Johnson	87
2	P02-P	TORCH VERT 20 (P Green) N Waller 5-11-10	I Lawrence	85
3	00-0	MUSIC CLASS 13 (Mrs P Elsbury) C Brooks 6-11-8	D Gallagher	93
4	01-0030	SIR DANTE 29 (F) (P Wilby) R Rowe 6-11-7	D O'Sullivan	83
5	03-00F	CADES BAY 19 (R Russell) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5	T Jenks	85
6	350-44P	OUR RAINBOW 86 (BF) (R Hinson) Mrs P Sly 5-11-4	M Brennan	90
7	563-0	FOREST MILL 8 (Non-Stop Promotions) J Spearing 5-11-3	D Bridgwater	86
8	00-0	FRED JEFFREY 23 (L Kimbel) A Tomsett 6-11-2	L Harvey	–
9	005-4F0	SEABROOK LAD 22 (Seabrook Partners) M Wilkinson 6-11-2	W Marston	●
10	PF0-332	LADY HIGH SHERIFF 20 (Mrs M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 7-11-1	S Wynne	92
11	200	TODD 23 (A Harvey) A Harvey 6-11-0	J A McCarthy	98
12	P32005	RED LIGHT 26 (B) (M F Racing) J Jenkins 5-10-13	P Carberry	97
13	335340	POSITIVO 66 (L Gilbert) Miss C Caroe 6-10-9	D Leahy	85
14	00/F3-60	BROWN AND MILD 37 (C Cooper) Miss A Embiricos 5-10-4	K Gaule	80
15	F464	COME ON IN 16 (Ascot Park Owners) R Dickin 4-10-2	X Aizpuru (7)	89
16	03P-330	KATBALLOU 70 (M Fodgell) K Wingrove 8-10-0	Mr O McPhail (7)	90
17	5-5006	SCALLY HICKS 13 (T Walker) B Baugh 8-10-0	Gary Lyons	83

Long handicap: Katballou 9-11, Scally Hicks 9-11.

BETTING: 11-4 Toby Brown, 6-1 Music Class, 7-1 Sir Dante, 8-1 Forest Mill, Cades Bay, 10-1 Lady High Sheriff, 12-1 others.

1996: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING.

2.20 HORSELEY FEN HANDICAP CHASE (£3,228: 3m) (12 runners)

1	UF/3-U26	YEOMAN WARRIOR 21 (BF,S) (Mrs H Alvey) R Rowe 10-11-10	D O'Sullivan	91
2	3124/P-P	INVASION 13 (F,G,S) (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 13-11-7	M Brennan	–
3	3321/P6	CELTIC BARLE 27 (CD,G,S) (Mrs I Hodge) H Hodge 13-11-4	S McNeill	–
4	F12-0P0	KNOCKAVERRY 22 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs W Morrell) M Wilkinson 9-11-1	W Marston	82
5	42P/P4P	MIGHTY FROLIC 29 (D,F,G,S) (M Pinto) Miss S Edwards 10-10-13	P Hide	–
6	4-2140P	SOLO GENT 7 (CD,F,G,S) (A King) A Jones 8-10-12	S Curran	98
7	0563-F0	COOL RUNNER 13 (S) (G Nock) Mrs S Nock 7-10-10	D Byrne	91
8	F-32004	SUPPOSIN 31 (F,G,S) (J Kemp) Mrs S Smith 9-10-9	R Guest	96
9	3-PP112	TIM SOLDIER 20 (F,G,S) (K Dale) M Barraclough 10-10-7	R Supple	95
10	1226/PP	SHEELIN LAD 29 (S) Mrs T McInnes Skinner 9-10-4	D Fortt (3)	–
11	013-122	EASTERN RIVER 29 (BF,G,S) (Garrison Equine) T Forster 11-10-4	S Wynne	●
12	33/1PPP	GRIFFINS BAR 30 (B,G) (M Smith) Mrs P Sly 9-10-3	J Culloty	–

BETTING: 3-1 Eastern River, 4-1 Tim Soldier, 5-1 Yeoman Warrior, 7-1 Supposin, 8-1 Solo Gent, 10-1 Cool Runner, 12-1 others.

2.50 EQUITABLE HOUSE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE C4

(4-Y-O: £3,602: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1		CABALLUS 188F (Salvani Racing) Mrs J Pitman 10-12	R Farrant	–
2	2	EXALTED 16 (Mrs B Jenks) W Jenks 10-12	T Jenks	98
3	P	GULLIVER 20 (B) (P Green) N Waller 10-12	I Lawrence	–
4	4	KINGS WITNESS 21 (J Hurdle) P Nicholls 10-12	D Bridgwater	●
5	00P	MAGIC ROLE 19 (V) (M Ferguson) J Jenkins 10-12	P Carberry	–
6	344	PARROT'S HILL 12 (BF) (M Tompkins Elite) M Tompkins 10-12	R Guest	88
7	6	SILVRETTA 19 (B & M McHugh) J Gifford 10-7	P Hide	–
8	5F	SULAWESI 16 (J Joseph) N Twiston-Davies 10-7	C Maude	95

BETTING: 2-1 Kings Witness, 3-1 Exalted, 4-1 Caballus, 6-1 Sulawesi, 8-1 Parrot's Hill, 10-1 Silvretta, 25-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

EXALTED 6l 2nd of 16 to Fitzwilliam in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to firm). GULLIVER pulled up in 13-runner novice hurdle in won by Cheerful Aspect *at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft).* KINGS WITNESS 8¾l 4th of 10 to Shadow Leader in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). PARROT'S HILL 3¾l 4th of 5 to Cry Baby *in novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, good to soft).* SILVRETTA 34l 6th of 10 to Hayaain in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110 yd, good) with MAGIC ROLE (4lb better off) pulled up. SULAWESI 24¾l 5th of 16 to Summer Spell in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start.
Selection: *EXALTED*

3.20 LONGWOOD FEN HANDICAP CHASE C4

(£4,352: 2m 110yd) (7 runners)

1	312243	THUMBS UP 5 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs B Taylor) G McCourt 11-12-0	R Hobson (7)	92
2	061-344	RANDOM ASSAULT 28 (D) (Random Lot) D Nicholson 8-12-0	R Johnson	91
3	1/U-1P12	FINE HARVEST 34 (CD,F,G) (Miss A Shirley-Priest) J Spearing 11-11-11	T J Murphy	94
4	2214U1	NEWLANDS-GENERAL 28 (D,F,G,S) (C Murphy) P Nicholls 11-11-7	P Carberry	90
5	113322	REGAL ROMPER 16 (D,BF,F,G) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 9-11-0	R Guest	●
6	2-11315	EASTERN MAGIC 13 (D,F,G) (Mrs C Smith) G Barnett 9-10-6	D Bridgwater	91
7	22-4824	LOWAWATHA 113 (D,F) (Mrs E Heath) Mrs E Heath 9-10-2	K Gaule	87

BETTING: 6-4 Fine Harvest, 3-1 Eastern Magic, 9-2 Newlands-General, 6-1 Random Assault, 7-1 Regal Romper, 8-1 Thumbs Up, 14-1 Lowawatha.

FORM FOCUS

THUMBS UP 6l 2nd of 6 to Mister Oddy in handicap chase at Worcester (2m, good to soft) with RANDOM ASSAULT (3lb better off) 6l 3rd and NEWLANDS-GENERAL (2lb worse off) 1¼l 4th. Dec 96. FINE HARVEST beat Bally Parson 4l in 7-runner handicap chase at Warwick (2m, good) on penultimate start. Previously beat LOWAWATHA (13lb better off) 2½l in 5-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good to firm) Oct 96. NEWLANDS-GENERAL beat THUMBS UP (3lb better off) 11l in 2-runner handicap chase at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). REGAL ROMPER ¾l 2nd of 5 to Marble Man in handicap chase at Carlisle (2m, good to soft). EASTERN MAGIC beat Weaver George head in 5-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good) with RANDOM ASSAULT (6lb better off) 5l 4th.
Selection: FINE HARVEST (nap)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Spearing	9	26	34.6	D Byrne	6	22	27.3
Mrs S Smith	4	15	26.7	J Culloty	3	11	27.3
D Nicholson	12	52	23.1	P Hide	17	63	27.0
J Gifford	16	74	21.6	W Marston	10	51	19.6
Mrs J Pitman	8	38	21.1	J Railton	8	44	18.2

3.50 PIDLEY FEN MARES ONLY MAIDEN HURDLE

(£2,810: 2m 110yd) (22 runners)

1	0/00-5	ANNIE RUTH 30 (Mrs E Birks) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-5	R Farrant	–
2	30-336	ARDRINA 20 (BF) (L M Racing) F Murphy 6-11-5	P Carberry	67
3	P	BALLY WONDER 21 (Mrs E Heath) Mrs E Heath 5-11-5	K Gaule	–
4	5/	CALLERMINE 677 (Mrs H Day) Miss H Day 8-11-5	M Foster	–
5	264	DERRING FLOSS 12 (Mrs R Worrall) J Pickering 7-11-5	Miss J Wormall (7)	71
6	5/0	DIAMOND TIME 13 (Mrs E Bevan) T Forster 6-11-5	S Wynne	–
7	00	LUCRATIVE PERK 23 (E Wilkinson) Miss C Caroe 5-11-5	D Leahy	–
8	0006	MISTRESS TUDOR 13 (Mrs J Ockleston) S Mellor 6-11-5	N Mann	–
9	00-00	MOLLIE SILVERS 23 (V) (J S Cresswell) J Cresswell 5-11-5	N T Egan (7)	–
10	114F	MRS EM 20 (BF,F,S) (G Mizel) P Nicholls 5-11-5	R Johnson	80
11	25-123	NISHAMIRA 12 (BF,G) (M Burke Developments) T Barron 5-11-5	D Gallagher	90
12	P	OUR EMMA 10 (J Joseph) J Joseph 8-11-5	W Marston	–
13		RING FOR ROSIE (T Nixon) T Forster 6-11-5	J Culloty	–
14	P	SHOULDHAVESAIDNO 29 (P Haslam) T Hind 6-11-5	D O'Sullivan	–
15	00	SKIP TO SOMERFIELD 12 (J Senior) B Rothwell 5-11-5	A S Smith	73
16	0	SLACK ALICE 31 (Mrs S Spearing) J Spearing 6-11-5	T J Murphy	–
17	240	SUPREME TROGLODYTE 29 (The Trogs) C Morlock 5-11-5	D Fortt (3)	–
18	00	SWEET MOUNT 35 (S Barry) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-5	C Maude	–
19	265	BELMARITA 19 (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 4-10-9	R Guest	84
20		SUMMER PRINCESS 98F (P Daykin) G Fierro 4-10-9	D Byrne	–
21	53	TAKEAMEMO 16 (Sherwood Partnership) O Sherwood 4-10-9	J A McCarthy	87
22	2	THREESOCKS 9 (K Burks) B Smart 4-10-9	I Lawrence	●

BETTING: 9-4 Mrs Em, 7-2 Nishamira, 4-1 Takeamemo, 6-1 Belmarita, 10-1 Supreme Troglodyte, 12-1 Sweet Mount, Ring For Rosie, 16-1 others.

4.25 EUXIMOOR FEN NOVICES CHASE

(£3,023: 2m 4f 110yd) (7 runners)

1	U2-1412	SECOND CALL 21 (BF,F,G,S) (J Day) T Forster 8-11-10	S Wynne	85
2	2/10P-P5	BUCKET OF GOLD 13 (S) (Mrs F McInnes Skinner) O Brennan 7-11-3	M Brennan	70
3	0-2158P	DREAM LEADER 22 (G) (M Roberts) M Roberts 7-11-3	J Railton	–
4	05F0/22	FRAZER ISLAND 21 (B Alexander) R Rowe 8-11-3	D O'Sullivan	85
5	11-1123	MANDYS MANTINO 33 (F,G,S) (J Plackett) J Gifford 7-11-3	P Hide	●
6	/PP/P0-	THE SLOPER 395 (Miss E England) Miss E England 9-11-3	D Byrne	–
7	P/P/0P	PANDORA'S PRIZE 2 (S) (Mrs P Joynes) J Spearing 11-10-12	T J Murphy	–

BETTING: 4-5 Mandys Mantino, 9-4 Second Call, 6-1 Frazer Island, 10-1 Bucket Of Gold, 12-1 Dream Leader, 33-1 Pandora's Prize, 50-1 The Sloper

4.55 WIMBLINGTON FEN AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,338: 2m 110yd) (8 runners)

1	110-P01	SHERIFFMUIR 9 (D,S) (J Wadham) Mrs L Wadham 8-12-3 (7ex)	P Scott (7)	87
2	121261	WILLY STAR 14 (CD,G,S) (Mrs S Smith) Mrs S Smith 7-11-6	E Babington (7)	91
3	00/P2-04	BIGWHEEL BILL 14 (F,G) (Mrs D Steedman) J Jenkins 8-10-4	C Bonner (3)	●
4	12-U5FP	HALHAM TARN 18 (D,S) (H Manners) H Manners 7-10-0	Miss A Dudley (7)	–
5	0/R5PU-	PAULA'S BOY 318 (D Bassett) D Bassett 7-10-0	Miss K Di Marte (7)	85
6	3240-	ALKA INTERNATIONAL 455 Mrs P Townsley 5-10-0	Miss C Townsley (7)	84
7	06-0005	BIYA 21F (D McCain) D McCain 5-10-0	G Lake (7)	79
8	0/PPP-	SILENT SOVEREIGN 456 (B) (G Dowdell) P Clarke 8-10-0	P Clarke (7)	–

Long handicap: Halham Tarn 9-13, Paula's Boy 9-10, Alka International 9-5, Biya 9-1, Silent Sovereign 7-13.

BETTING: 11-10 Sheriffmuir, 3-1 Willy Star, 4-1 Bigwheel Bill, 12-1 Biya, 14-1 Alka International, 16-1 Halham Tarn, 20-1 others.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.15 Colosse. 2.45 Myttons Mistake. 3.15 Allstars Dancer. 3.45 Shanghai Lil. 4.15 Zelaya. 4.45 A Breeze.

Our Newmarket Correspondent:
4.15 Alagna. 4.45 A BREEZE (nap).

GOING: STANDARD SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.15 BARNABY RUDGE CLAIMING STAKES

(£2,417: 1m 4f) (6 runners)

1	-112	PERSIAN CONQUEST 15 (B,CD,G) R Ingram 5-9-3	S Sanders 2
2	040-	YELLOW DRAGON 10J (G) B Pearce 4-8-12	G Gallagher (7) 1
3	9-60	CARROLLS MARC 2 (CD,F,S) C Murray 9-8-11	M Tebbutt 3
4	0/00	PYRRHIC DANCE 9 M Haynes 7-8-11	G Bardwell 6
5	600/	BEDOUIN PRINCE 1100J (D,G) Mrs L Stubbs 10-8-9	D Holland 5
6	0-02	COLOSSE 12 (CD,G) J Eyre 5-8-4	R French (7) 4

8-11 Persian Conquest, 5-2 Colosse, 8-1 Carrolls Marc, 10-1 Yellow Dragon, 16-1 Bedouin Prince, Pyrrhic Dance

2.45 BLEAK HOUSE SELLING STAKES

(£2,106: 6f) (7)

1	2044	DOUBLE OSCAR 7 (B,D,F) D Nicholls 4-9-7	Alex Greaves 3
2	-0336	FEATHERSTONE LANE 7 (V,G) Miss L Siddall 6-9-7	T Siddall (7) 5
3	0-44	JUSTINIANUS 21 (D,G,S) J Bridger 5-9-7	A Daly (5) 2
4	-622	MYTTONS MISTAKE 17 (F) A Bailey 4-9-7	S Sanders 7
5	00-0	RESPECTABLE JONES 30 (B,CD,F,G,S) R Hollinshead 11-9-7	D Griffiths (5) 4
6	0040	FANCY DESIGN 24 P Mitchell 4-9-2	A Clark 1
7	10-0	NEWINGTON BUTTS 27 (E,CD,G) K McAuliffe 7-9-2	D Holland 6

7-4 Myttons Mistake, 7-2 Double Oscar, 4-1 Featherstone Lane, 7-1 others.

3.15 GREAT EXPECTATIONS HANDICAP

(£2,752: 5f) (10)

1	41-6	MASTER OF PASSION 43 (CD,BF,F,G,S) J Eustace 8-10-0	D Sweeney (5) 4
2	40-1	RIFIFI 5 (CD,G) R Ingram 4-9-11 (7ex)	S Whitworth 9
3	0120	LORD SKY 16 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) A Bailey 6-9-10	S Sanders 2
4	058-	BOWCLIFFE GRANGE 176 (CD,F) D Chapman 5-8-8	A Culhane 8
5	5215	IVORY'S GRAB HIRE 7 (B,CD,F,G) K Ivory 4-8-5	D Biggs 5
6	0636	IMP EXPRESS 14 (B,D,BF,F,G) G Moore 4-7-12	N Carlisle 10
7	0-00	RENNYHOLME 15 (B,D,G) J Hetherton 6-7-11	N Adams 1
8	5242	ALLSTARS DANCER 14 T Naughton 4-7-10	G Bardwell 8
9	5643	SUPERLAO 7 (D,F,G) J Bridger 5-7-10	R Mullen (5) 3
10	5855	LOGIE PERT LAD 5 J Bridger 5-7-10	F Norton 7

9-2 Ivory's Grab Hire, 5-1 Rififi, Allstars Dancer, 6-1 Lord Sky, 7-1 others.

3.45 DAVID COPPERFIELD FILLIES HANDICAP

(£2,830: 1m 2f) (10)

1	0-00	TEA PARTY 22 (G) K Cunningham-Brown 4-10-0	D Holland 6
2	640-	MIMOSA 71 (F) S Dow 4-9-5	A Daly (5) 10
3	3130	TALLULAH BELLE 22 (G) N Littmoden 4-9-2	T G McLaughlin 4
4	3-12	SHANGHAI LIL 21 (C,G) M Fetherston-Godley 5-9-1	F Norton 7
5	2-32	PASSAGE CREEPING 23 (E) S Dow 4-9-1	S Sanders 9
6	0-05	ABSOLUTELYSTUNNING 21 (CD,F,G) Mrs B Waring 4-8-5	W Ryan 8
7	0-05	SALLY ARMSTRONG 47 C Thornton 4-8-4	S Drowne 3
8	0-00	TOTAL RACH 20 (B,CD,F,G) A Newcombe 5-8-0	N Varley (3) 1
9	02-0	MOGIN 44 (F) T Naughton 4-7-13	G Bardwell 2
10	6-25	QUEENS STROLLER 13 (G) R Peacock 6-7-10	J Bramhill (5) 5

9-4 Shanghai Lil, 5-1 Passage Creeping, 6-1 Tea Party, Tallulah Belle, 8-1 Mimosa, 10-1 Absolutelystunning, 12-1 others.

4.15 HARD TIMES MAIDEN STAKES

(£3,274: 7f) (6)

1	223-	AGENT 54 J Eyre 4-9-10	D McKeown 2
2	3-5	MAGAZINE GAP 16 Pat Mitchell 4-9-10	Amanda Sanders (5) 5
3	00/0	LADY WESTBURY 6 P Richens 6-9-5	S Drowne 6
4	4P-2	PERANG POLLY 16 Lord Huntingdon 5-9-5	D Harrison 1
5	32-0	ZELAYA 22 (BF) B L Moore 4-9-5	F Norton 4
6		ALAGNA S Williams 3-8-2	J Tate 3

6-4 Agent, 7-4 Perang Polly, 5-1 Magazine Gap, 7-1 Zelaya, 8-1 Alagna, 33-1 Lady Westbury

4.45 NICHOLAS NICKLEBY HANDICAP

(3-Y-O: £3,388: 7f) (8)

1	0114	COUNTLESS TIMES 14 (C,G) W Muir 9-7	J Wilkinson (7) 4
2	-421	THE WYANDOTTE INN 22 (C,G) R Hollinshead 9-7	F Lynch (3) 8
3	2-52	PLAN FOR PROFIT 15 (BF,F) M Johnston 9-7	D Holland 6
4	60-0	A BREEZE 22 (F) D Morris 9-3	N Day 5
5	023-	NOBLE HERO 86 J Sheehan 8-11	S Drowne 2
6	06-2	SWIFT 7 (G) M Polglase 8-4	R French (7) 3
7	05-4	ABSTONE QUEEN 14 (V,D,F,G) P Evans 7-12	D Wright 1
8	06-3	KAYZEE 21 S Dow 7-10	R Mullen (5) 7

3-1 Plan For Profit, 7-2 The Wyandotte Inn, 4-1 Swift, 9-2 Countless Times, 7-1 Kayzee, Abstone Queen, 8-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Thornton, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%; Lord Huntingdon, 41 from 183, 22.4%; D Nicholls, 9 from 43, 20.9%; M Johnston, 44 from 246, 17.9%; S Williams, 6 from 34, 17.6%; G L Moore, 52 from 337, 15.4%.

JOCKEYS: J Wilkinson, 9 winners from 22 rides, 27.3%; D Holland, 29 from 123, 23.6%; Alex Greaves, 10 from 46, 21.7%; S Whitworth, 34 from 169, 20.1%; W Ryan, 18 from 103, 17.5%; D McKeown, 17 from 106, 16.0%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Huntingdon: 2.20 Griffins Bar. 2.50 Gulliver, Magic Role. 3.50 Mollie Silvers. Wincanton: 3.35 Five To Seven. 4.35 Saafi. 5.05 Mac'smyuncle.

WINCANTON

THUNDERER

2.05 Shankar
2.35 Unguided Missile
3.05 Florid
3.35 **MAESTRO PAUL** *(nap)*
4.05 *The Flying Phantom*
4.35 I Recall
5.00 Cathay

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.05 GEORGIE NEWALL NOVICES CHASE C4

(£3,574: 2m) (8 runners)

101	31212P	SCOTTISH BAMBI 35 (D,F,S) (W Kelly) P Webber 9-12-0	J Osborne	76
102	611-FP2	AFTER THE FOX 14 (F,G) (Mrs R Blackburn) N Hawke 10-11-2	G Upton	76
103	12613U-	HOLD YOUR RANKS 293 (S) (Mrs C Lucas) R Frost 10-11-2	J Frost	–
104	00-0PP	MR GOODWILLY 22 (Mrs R Stanley) R Alner 7-11-2	A Thornton	–
105	01-P22P	ROBINS PRIDE 13 (G,S) (Weeks, Staple & co) C Popham 7-11-2	T Dascombe (3)	89
106	2/12315-	SHANKAR 329 (G,S) (International Plywood Plc) D Nicholson 6-11-2	A Maguire	–
107	3R-F	SWAHILI RUN 10 (F) (S Gallagher) J O'Shea 9-11-2	Michael Brennan (3)	–
108	113051	INDIAN JOCKEY 20 (D,F,G) (S Mercer) M Pipe 5-10-13	N Williamson	●

BETTING: Evens Shankar, 5-2 Indian Jockey, 7-1 Scottish Bambi, 10-1 After The Fox, Robins Pride, 16-1 others.

1996: MEETING ABANDONED — FROST

FORM FOCUS

EXALTED 6l 2nd of 16 to Fitzwilliam in novice hurdle at Warwick (2m, good to firm). GULLIVER pulled up to Cheerful Aspect in novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, soft). KINGS WITNESS 8¾l 4th of 10 to Shadow Leader in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, good to soft). PARROT'S HILL 3¾l 4th of 5 to Cry Baby in novice hurdle at Ayr (2m, good to soft). SILVRETTA 34l 6th to Hayaain in novice hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) with MAGIC ROLE (4th better off) pulled up. SULAWESI 24¾l 5th to Summer Spell in novice hurdle at Kempton (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start, with MAGIC ROLE 41¾l 12th.
Selection: EXALTED

2.35 JIM FORD CHALLENGE CUP CHASE C4

(£12,055: 3m 1f 110yd) (8 runners)

201	123-122	UNGUIDED MISSILE 33 (D,BF,F,G,S) (D Harrison) G Richards 9-11-8	R Dunwoody	●
202	1221-04	ALL FOR LUCK 12 (D,F,G,S) (B Craig) M Pipe 12-11-2	C Swan	70
203	66204	BOLSHIE BARON 15 (F) (M Weston) M Weston 8-11-2	Mr M Harris	50
204	2/1U23-1	CHERRYNUT 99 (F,G,S) (Hunt & Co Ltd) P Nicholls 8-11-2	N Williamson	70
205	12-111F	COOME HILL 19 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs J Dennis) W Dennis 8-11-2	J Osborne	98
206	F1/1U	HANAKHAM 86 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (M Bereton) R Hodges 8-11-2	B Powell	59
207	212/352	KADI 19 (G,S) (J Brown) D Nicholson 8-11-2	A Maguire	87
208	1A/1211-	MAAMUR 345 (D,G,S) (Mrs A Wood) T Forster 9-11-2	A Thornton	91

BETTING: 5-4 Coome Hill, 7-2 Unguided Missile, 4-1 Maamur, 7-1 Kadi, 8-1 Cherrynut, 14-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

THUMBS UP 6l 2nd of 6 to Mister Oddy in handicap chase at Worcester (2m, good to soft) with RANDOM ASSAULT (3lb better off) 6l 3rd and NEWLANDS-GENERAL (2lb worse off) 1¼l 4th. Dec 96. FINE HARVEST beat Bally Parson 4l in 7-runner handicap chase at Warwick (2m, good) on penultimate start. Previously beat LOWAWATHA (13lb better off) 2½l in 5-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good to firm) Oct 96. NEWLANDS-GENERAL beat THUMBS UP (3lb better off) 11l in 2-runner handicap chase at Wincanton (2m, good to firm). REGAL ROMPER ¾l 2nd of 5 to Marble Man in handicap chase at Carlisle (2m, good to soft). EASTERN MAGIC beat Weaver George head in 5-runner handicap chase at Wetherby (2m, good) with RANDOM ASSAULT (6lb better off) 5l 4th.
Selection: FINE HARVEST (nap)

3.05 K J PIKE & SONS KINGWELL HURDLE C4

(Grade II: £15,625: 2m) (9 runners)

301	610006	DREAMS END 19 (CD,F,G,S) (T Price) P Bowen 9-11-10	R Dunwoody	84
302	161-100	ZABADI 12 (D,G,S) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 5-11-10	A Maguire	90
303	140-312	AMBLESIDE 19 (D,BF,S) (B Yiol) Mrs S Williams 6-11-2	N Williamson	72
304	4	FLORID 19 (Lord Howard de Walden) C Brooks 6-11-2	G Bradley	59
305	113-353	GROUND NUT 19 (CD,F,S) (Mrs R Hastings) R Buckler 7-11-2	B Powell	85
306	1011-13	POTENTATE 68 (D,BF,F,S) (J Weeden) M Pipe 6-11-2	A P McCoy	84
307	50322-0	ROMANCER 12 (B,D,F,G) (M Archer) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-2	C Llewellyn	98
308	21103/F	BLAST FREEZE 26 (D,G,S) (Pioneer Heat-Treatment) N Henderson 8-10-11	J R Kavanagh	94
309	31311F	JUST LITTLE 96 (D,F,G) (S O'Farrell) A O'Brien (Ire) 5-10-11	C Swan	●

BETTING: 5-2 Just Little, 5-1 Romancer, Zabadi, 6-1 Potentate, 7-1 Ground Nut, 8-1 Ambleside, 10-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

SCOTTISH BAMBI 4l 2nd of 11 to Captain Stockford in novice handicap chase at Hereford (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start. AFTER THE FOX 4l 2nd of 3 to Koo's Promise in novice chase here (2m 5f, good to firm). HOLD YOUR RANKS beat Blue Laws 6l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot (2m 6f, heavy) March 96. ROBINS PRIDE 10l 2nd of 5 to Amancio in novice chase at Plumpton (2m, good) on penultimate start. SHANKAR beat Tadellal 1½l in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good) Feb 96. INDIAN JOCKEY beat Cracking Prospect 8l in 9-runner novice handicap chase at Taunton (2m 110yd, good).
Selection: SCOTTISH BAMBI

3.35 LADBROKE HANDICAP CHASE C4

(£6,840: 2m 5f) (7 runners)

401	2F-2222	FIVE TO SEVEN 22 (B,D,BF,F,G,S) (Two Pins Two) P Nicholls 8-11-10	R Dunwoody	98
402	2565-30	THE CARROT MAN 10 (F,G) (Mrs J Winkworth) P Winkworth 9-11-0	J R Kavanagh	88
403	1612/13-	CHIEF JOSEPH 351 (F,G) (J O'Gorman) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-9	C Llewellyn	85
404	1351F-1	HARVEST VIEW 12 (F,G,S) (Dr P Brown) C Brooks 7-10-7	G Bradley	●
405	2FP-244	MAESTRO PAUL 21 (D,F,G,S) (H Pelham) J Gifford 11-10-3	L Aspell (3)	98
406	UP-52P6	SCOTONI 19 (F,G,S) (D & D Robinson) R O'Sullivan 11-10-0	N Williamson	97
407	423443	CHANNEL PASTIME 14 (G) (Mrs S Worthington) D Burchell 13-10-0	Guy Lewis (3)	92

Long handicap: Scotoni 9-13, Channel Pastime 9-3

BETTING: 7-4 Harvest View, 2-1 Five To Seven, 5-1 Maestro Paul, 6-1 Chief Joseph, 10-1 The Carrot Man, 12-1 Scotoni, 25-1 Channel Pastime

FORM FOCUS

UNGUIDED MISSILE neck 2nd of 6 to Jodami in the grade II Peter Marsh Limited Handicap Chase at Haydock (3m, good to firm). ALL FOR LUCK beat Shaarid 1l in 4-runner handicap chase at Stratford (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm) June 96. CHERRYNUT beat Billygoat Gruff 2½l in 3-runner limited handicap chase at Worcester (2m 7f 110yd, good) COOME HILL beat The Grey Monk 4l in 11-runner grade III Hennessy Gold Cup Handicap Chase at Newbury (3m 2f 110yd, good) on penultimate start. HANAKHAM beat Stormtracks 17l in novice chase over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start. MAAMUR beat UNGUIDED MISSILE (4lb better off) 7l in the Ritz Club Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (3m 1f, good to soft) March 96.
Selection: MAAMUR

4.05 MERE MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,863: 2m) (18 runners)

501		ARTISTIC PLAN (Forum Racing) R Alner 5-11-5	B Powell	–
502	00-05	BOOZYS DREAM 14 (G Legg) N Thomson 6-11-5	Guy Lewis (3)	–
503	6/4	DORMY THREE 7 (P Slade) R Hodges 7-11-5	T Dascombe (3)	89
504		ELRAAS 22F (L Pipe) R O'Sullivan 5-11-5	N Willmington (7)	–
505		EMBANKMENT 114F (Lady Tennant) N Henderson 7-11-5	Mr C Vigors (5)	–
506	03	FAIRY KNIGHT 77 (P & S Lever Partners) R Hannon 5-11-5	N Williamson	92
507		FREELINE FONTAINE (J Struel) N Henderson 5-11-5	J R Kavanagh	–
508	0	LANGTONIAN 7 (G Edwards) G Edwards 8-11-5	Michael Brennan (3)	–
509	P	MOOR DUTCH 7 (B Seward) R Frost 6-11-5	J Frost	–
510	130	PROTOTYPE 27 (F) (R Holt) G Johnson Houghton 6-11-5	A Thornton	–
511		THE FLYING PHANTOM 533F (P Betts Ltd) M Tompkins 6-11-5	R Dunwoody	–
512	2	WELTON ARSENAL 7 (Business Forms Express) K Bishop 5-11-5	R Greene	●
513	6-	ZIDAC 142F (B Brackpool) P Makin 5-11-5	B Fenton	–
514	062-00	LOCH NA KEAL 70 (S Kimber) C Morlock 5-11-0	C Llewellyn	81
515		SPREAD THE WORD 122F (Mrs P Pengelly) L Cottrell 5-11-0	D Salter (5)	–
516		CRANDON BOULEVARD 182F (Ms S Morris) Mrs J Pitman 4-10-9	J Osborne	–
517	3	GIVE AND TAKE 7 (Nelson, Newman and Moran) M Pipe 4-10-9	A P McCoy	97
518	3	KINNESCASH 7 (D James) P Bowen 4-10-9	A Maguire	88

BETTING: 5-2 The Flying Phantom, 3-1 Fairy Knight, 9-2 Embankment, 5-1 Give And Take, 7-1 Welton Arsenal, 10-1 Freeline Fontaine, 12-1 others

4.35 ILCHESTER HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,250: 2m) (20 runners)

601	405401	NASHVILLE STAR 13 (V,D,F,G) (R Mathew) R Mathew 6-11-10	A Thornton	98
602	10/03-	TISSISAT 279F (D,G) (J Kirby) J Kirby 8-11-6	G Upton	91
603	0-21062	DONTDRESSFORDINNER 10 (D,F,G) (A Fear & Ptnrs) R Hodges 7-11-3	R Dunwoody	95
604	0/0231-0	LUCAYAN CAY 14 (CD,S) (Joe Cool Ptnrs) Mrs A Bowlby 6-11-2	B Powell	91
605	2P0-P0	ETHBAAT 62 (The Over The Bridge Ptnrs) M Heaton-Ellis 6-11-1	M Richards	90
606	104-006	NEVER SO BLUE 12 (D,F) (P Bradley) P Bradley 6-11-1	Sophie Mitchell (5)	90
607	2-P5336	DAILY SPORT GIRL 10 (D,F,G,S) (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 8-10-13	Mr J L Llewellyn	86
608	50-22P4	EL GRANDO 8 (S) (M Brunton) K Cunningham-Brown 7-10-11	N Williamson	94
609	121224	ALWAYS HAPPY 14F (D,F,G) (C Fleet) Miss G Kelleway 4-10-11	A Maguire	93
610	F4/064-F	MALIGHT 93 (R Frost) R Frost 8-10-10	J Frost	90
611	2/3301-F	FANE PARK 28 (S) (Mrs A Baker) C Popham 9-10-10	G Tormey	89
612	PP/6P-P5	MRS JAWLEYFORD 10 (D,G,S) (C Smith) C Smith 9-10-8	M Ranger	–
613	2/P311/	GLADYS EMMANUEL 703 (S) (T Pocock) R Pocock 10-10-6	P Henley (3)	–
614	0-004	I RECALL 13 (Mrs S Coplestone) P Hayward 6-10-6	B Fenton	96
615	00/30U0	SAAFI 10 (B) (A White) R Baker 6-10-3	T Dascombe (3)	–
616	201P/P2	CLASSIC PAL 27 (D,G) (P Tory) N Mitchell 6-10-2	D Skyrme	●
617	05-4P65	MU-TADIL 80 (Mrs V Jones) R Baker 5-10-0	V Slattery	–
618	660	IN CAHOOTS 28F (Duckhaven Stud) A Smith 4-10-0	Michael Brennan (3)	94
619	46/0/0	CONCINNITY 20 (B Scriven) B Scriven 8-10-0	Mr A Holdsworth	–
620	24-0000	THE BREWER 28 (R Horler Partnership) J Tuck 5-10-0	R Bellamy	–

Long handicap: Mu-Tadil 9-7, In Cahoots 9-7, Concinnity 9-4, The Brewer 9-4

BETTING: 5-1 Dontdressfordinner, 6-1 Nashville Star, 6-1 I Recall, 10-1 Always Happy, Classic Pal, Daily Sport Girl, 12-1 others.

5.05 GOLF COURSE STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

(£1,264: 2m) (18 runners)

1		ACT IN TIME (Mrs G McFerran) T George 5-11-4	C Hynes (7)	–
2	2	ARRANGE 243 (J Batchelor) J Batchelor 5-11-4	Mr S Wallace (7)	–
3		CATHAY (R & E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-4	Mr G Baines (7)	–
4		CHARLIE PIP (M Appleby) R Curtis 5-11-4	Mr M Appleby	–
5		FILSCOT (G Beazley) W G M Turner 5-11-4	J Power (7)	–
6		GENERAL KILLINEY (D Caro) D Caro 5-11-4	Mr A Phillips	–
7		GORMAN (Miss H Knight) Miss H Knight 5-11-4	P Henley (3)	–
8		MAC'SMYUNCLE (B) (P Tylor) R Frost 6-11-4	Mr A Holdsworth	–
9		MOONRAKER'S MIRAGE (W M Perry) D Elsworth 6-11-4	Mr N Moran (7)	–
10		NOISY MINER (Mrs R Sear) D Nicholson 5-11-4	R Massey (3)	–
11		SALIX (Mrs D Wingham) N Hawke 5-11-4	O Burrows (5)	–
12		TOM DIAMOND (L Snook) L Snook 5-11-4	Michael Brennan (3)	–
13		TWO LORDS (W Catsley) G Ham 5-11-4	G Tormey	–
14		WILD NATIVE (Hunt & Co Ltd) P Nicholls 5-11-4	L Cummins (7)	–
15	3	JIM'S QUEST 35 (J Weeden) P Hobbs 4-10-8	Mr S Durack (7)	–
16		RACKETBALL (Mrs S Tanton) N Twiston-Davies 4-10-8	L Suthern (7)	–
17		SPRUCE LODGE (Mrs W Jarrett) J King 4-10-8	Sophie Mitchell (5)	–
18		REDGRAVE WOLF (K Bishop) K Bishop 4-10-3	G Supple (7)	–

BETTING. 3-1 Noisy Miner, 4-1 Arrange, Racketball, 5-1 Cathay, 6-1 Jim's Quest, 10-1 Wild Native, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
W Dennis	3	7	42.9	R Dunwoody	30	129	23.3
M Pipe	39	139	28.1	J Osborne	15	68	22.1
Mrs J Pitman	16	68	23.5	G Bradley	8	37	21.6
Miss H Knight	7	30	23.3	D Skyrme	3	14	21.4
N Twiston-Davies	10	47	21.3	O Burrows	3	14	21.4
P Nicholls	21	124	16.9	A P McCoy	13	72	18.1

Gibson returns

DALE GIBSON landed the Snipe Handicap at Wolverhampton yesterday on Puzzlement, his first ride on *returning from a five-month* absence through injuries received in a fall at Beverley.

RAPID RACELINE
0930 168+
COMMENTARY RESULTS
WINCANTON 101 201
HUNTINGDON 102 202
LINGFIELD 103 203
FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

CRICKET: LONG-AWAITED TEST SERIES VICTORY CANNOT MASK UNSAVOURY EPISODES DURING WINTER TOUR OF DISCONTENT

Aggressive style breaches acceptable boundaries

John Woodcock argues that the intense England regime may be hindering the players' progress

Towards the end of England's winter travels, here are a few thoughts prompted by reading the press, watching television and spending a lifetime on tour. For many weeks hardly a day went by without one being asked: "What on earth is the matter with English cricket?" More recently, things have looked up, albeit against one of our weaker cricketing brethren, and for that we may be truly grateful.

For too long the prevailing mood seemed to be one of disenchantment, which may have been to some extent the cause and to some extent the effect of events on the field. Going away on a long tour has always given rise to mixed feelings, but, when John Crawley's tour diary was published with a first entry that referred to his "real despair" at leaving his family and girlfriend for 14 weeks, it sent out an unfortunate message. In no time there were reports of a side at odds with its assignment and at loggerheads with the press. Players in print and families on tour have long been bones of contention, going back all the way to 1873-74, when the newly-wed "W. G." used his first visit to Australia as a honeymoon.

In Australia, in 1920-21, the presence of the wife and mother of Johnny Douglas, the MCC captain, caused as much disaffection as the fact that Rockley Wilson, a member of the team, was writing for the *Daily Express*. Again, in Australia in 1946-47, exception was taken to Brian Sellers, an England selector, filing disparaging reports to the *Yorkshire Evening Post*. This time, apart from the Crawley diary, there have been the captain's commentaries and the coach's contentions, both, naturally enough, putting the case for the defence.

'Obsession can be a hindrance'

One of the problems of such columns is that they pre-empt the deliberation of future selection committees. If captain and coach convince themselves that they have the right players around them, and repeatedly say so (although they may well be wrong), selectorial autonomy is surely undermined. As for players being pleased enough to write for the press but not to share a Christmas drink with them, as happened in Zimbabwe, that, of course, is futile.

It may be another world from the one in which there used to be a football match on Christmas morning — the players against the writers on some Australian beach — refereed by the scorer-cum-baggagemaster-cum-majordomo, the inimitable George Duckworth, and followed by refreshments and good fellowship. The press are more swingeing now and more hurtful in their criticisms; so much so that I am amazed sometimes that the players are as tolerant as they are. To withdraw into some sort of laager, though, never does any good.

There have been times this winter when David Lloyd, the England coach, has seemed to be at the end of his tether, driven almost to distraction by circumstance and pathos: and that, too, cannot be for the best. Commitment and competitiveness were always obligatory; today they are all-consuming and I believe that there is an unhealthy side to that. What is intrinsic to the culture of Australia and South Africa, by way of hype and manifest aggression, is foreign to many Englishmen.

Coming from a more temperate climate, England's cricketers have always lived and had their being in their own more temperate way. Subjected to the rigours of the present regime, with its emphasis on intensity and shadow boxing in the dressing-room and the most exhaustive training schedule out of it, it is perfectly possible that many of our finest players (Hutton or Compton or Cowdrey, for example, or Alec Bedser, for that matter) would not have developed as effectively and as naturally. It could certainly be said to have cost us a good number of runs from Gower.

When, on this tour, England have bowled quite astonishingly badly at the start of a match, which has not been an uncommon occurrence, might it not have been because they were too driven, too taut and too wrought up? Obsession can be not so much a spur as a hindrance; it has to be entertained with suspicion and watched with care.

In Australia, not many years ago, the Young England side found the opposition's sledging so remorseless that they decided there was nothing for it but to retaliate in kind. Their efforts were so embarrassingly awful, though, that they soon went back to concentrating on their cricket. The best, or worst, they could think up was something on the lines of "What convict ship did this one's ancestors come out on, then?"

Yet, listening to the present England side in the field in New Zealand, as is possible on television through the stump microphone, has been like being at Smithfield Market. Commentators refer to ill-feeling as though it were nothing unusual; catches are claimed that may not be catches; and the exorbitance of the appealing by the England team has reached hysterical proportions.

'Appeals have become hysterical'

It is splendid that England have won a couple of Test matches. They were not that far from winning all of the five they have played this winter. They have an enormously resolute captain, whose batting in the last Test match at Christchurch was positively heroic, and a team spirit that should help to close the gap between themselves and Australia when they meet this summer; but do we really want, or need, to play our cricket quite so slavishly, quite as intemperately? It is a question that has to be addressed, because very soon the young will be doing it, too.

Chance for England to regain lost expertise

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN CHRISTCHURCH

NEW ZEALAND is full of people who apparently believe that the important cricket of the winter is only just beginning. England's players rightly beg to differ, but they must not deceive themselves that their emphatic success in the Test series renders the rest of the itinerary irrelevant.

The final fortnight of this tour constitutes the kind of obstacle course that habitually brings England down. There are five one-day internationals, the first of them a floodlit fixture at Lancaster Park today, and, if recent form is an accurate guide, England will be hard put to win any of them.

It is unarguably true that England could now finish a distant second in these internationals without the roof falling in to threaten leadership and personnel, as most certainly it would have done if the Test series had ended differently. Captain and coach are safe for another summer and so, hopefully, are the majority of the players who won the last two Tests, for at last there was an impression of a unit worthy of trust and perseverance.

The team, however, will have been told that a "demob happy" mentality is unacceptable just yet. They must convince themselves that one-day cricket, like it or not, can no longer be dismissed as an insignificant postscript to an international tour and that the benefits of a winning habit can be usefully extended to this form of the game.

When England last strung together two Test wins, on the corresponding tour of New Zealand five years ago, they went on to play their most compelling one-day cricket for years in the World Cup in Australasia. They reached the final, looking the most impressive team, and, but for a degree of fatigue during the closing fortnight, they would surely have won it.

There is no World Cup now to act as an energiser, just a hotch-potch of commercially orientated fixtures occupying a fortnight in which the players' thoughts will understandably be drifting to the homes left last November. It is at times like this that the reserve tank of pride and professionalism is required.

By way of a spur, it is worth repeating the gruesome statistics of England's overseas one-day internationals over the past two winters. Of 14 games against Test nations, they have won one and lost 13. This is a staggering level of incompetence.

While supporters back home raged and despaired, especially over a final fixture against Zimbabwe in which England were an unmitigated rabble, the players were neither oblivious nor unmoved.

"We were dreadful in those games," Nasser Hussain, the vice-captain, said, "and it is important we put that right. We have got to stop playing one-day cricket as if we were still in England. A different game has evolved overseas now, and it means you cannot just keep wickets in hand and hope to score at six runs an over in the closing stages. You have to be more positive throughout."

Part of the problem is that England are not ideally equipped. "We brought a squad with the Tests in mind," Michael Atherton, the captain, said, "and we have completed that part of the job well; but we can't use that as an excuse because our one-day cricket needs improvement. We were pretty poor in Zimbabwe."

Atherton intends to go in first, rather than batting at No 3 or No 5, as he did on the first leg of the tour, and his job will be to anchor the innings while the strokemakers inject the tempo necessary to ensure that England achieve something more imposing than 179, their best effort of three in Zimbabwe.

New Zealand have a resourceful one-day side, including some big hitters and miserly bowlers such as Gavin Larsen and Dipak Patel. On home territory, they are likely to win more than they lose, but England must strive to emerge with dignity.

One certainty is that the games will lack nothing in atmosphere. All 25,000 tickets for today were sold out a week ago and capacity crowds are also confidently predicted elsewhere.

There is a culture for one-day cricket here, a lust for the frivolity of it all, that sometimes spills over into the more serious arena — such as when the computerised scoreboard at the Christchurch Test spent as much time acclaiming the "Barmy Army" and showing images of dancing girls as it did displaying the score.

If the one-day series goes their way, the New Zealand public will happily accept that they have won the games that matter. England, of course, could console themselves that they know otherwise — but it would make a refreshing change if they did not have to try.

GRAHAM CHADWICK / ALLSPORT

Atherton caught fishing: not a slack dismissal but the captain's way of relaxing after his two outstanding innings in the final Test

TEST SERIES AVERAGES

England

Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/s
M A Atherton	3	4	1	325	118	108.33	1	2	1
A J Stewart	3	4	0	257	173	64.25	1	1	14/2
G P Thorpe	3	4	0	247	119	61.75	2	0	1
D G Cork	3	4	1	121	59	40.33	0	1	3
P C R Tufnell	3	3	2	38	19*	38.00	0	0	0
J P Crawley	3	4	1	111	56	37.00	0	1	1
N Hussain	3	4	0	117	64	29.25	0	1	6
A D Mullally	1	1	0	21	21	21.00	0	0	0
R D B Croft	2	2	0	31	31	15.50	0	0	2
N V Knight	3	4	0	56	29	14.00	0	0	9
A R Caddick	2	3	0	39	20	13.00	0	0	1
D Gough	3	3	0	20	18	6.66	0	0	0
C White	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0

* denotes not out

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	Best	5w	10w
R D B Croft	90.1	27	162	10	16.20	5-95	1	0
D Gough	127.3	31	361	19	19.00	5-40	1	0
A R Caddick	87.5	25	174	8	21.75	4-45	0	0
A D Mullally	53	22	102	3	34.00	2-47	0	0
P C R Tufnell	132	47	242	7	34.57	3-53	0	0
C White	25	5	77	2	38.50	2-51	0	0
D G Cork	98.5	21	300	7	42.85	3-95	0	0

ALSO BOWLED: G P Thorpe 1-1-0-0.

New Zealand

Batting

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50	Ct/s
D L Vettori	2	4	3	59	29*	59.00	0	0	1
S P Fleming	3	6	0	212	129	35.33	1	1	7
C L Cairns	3	6	0	208	67	34.66	0	3	0
N J Astle	3	6	1	172	102*	34.40	1	0	0
B A Pocock	3	6	0	182	70	30.33	0	2	1
B A Young	3	6	0	171	56	28.50	0	1	3
M J Horne	1	2	0	55	42	27.50	0	0	0
A C Parore	3	6	0	125	59	20.83	0	14	
L K Germon	2	4	0	48	14	12.00	0	0	3/1
D N Patel	2	4	0	45	45	11.25	0	0	2
S B Doull	3	6	0	37	26	6.16	0	0	7
H T Davis	1	2	0	9	8	4.50	0	0	2
G I Allott	2	4	1	12	8*	4.00	0	0	1
J T C Vaughan	1	2	0	5	3	2.50	0	0	0
D K Morrison	1	2	2	20	14*	—	0	0	0

Bowling

	O	M	R	W	Avge	Best	5w	10w
D L Vettori	103.3	32	208	7	29.71	4-97	0	0
S B Doull	105.4	31	299	9	33.22	5-75	1	0
N J Astle	67	20	134	4	33.50	2-26	0	0
D K Morrison	24.4	4	104	3	34.66	3-10	0	0
G I Allott	67.4	11	197	5	39.40	4-74	0	0
D N Patel	68	16	151	3	50.33	2-92	0	0
J T C Vaughan	36	10	57	1	57.00	1-57	0	0
C L Cairns	52	11	146	2	73.00	1-12	0	0
H T Davis	36	8	93	1	93.00	1-50	0	0

ALSO BOWLED: B A Pocock 2-0-10-0.

Sidhu earns recall for India's tour of Caribbean

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NAVJOT SIDHU, whose international cricket career was thought to have ended when he walked out of the tour of England last summer, has been recalled by India for the tour of the West Indies that starts later this month.

Sidhu, the opening batsman, 34, was involved in a number of disputes with Mohammad Azharuddin, then the captain, but he has won back his place after India's defeats in the recent Test and limited-overs series in South Africa.

Abey Kuruvilla, 28, the Bombay fast bowler, is the only newcomer in the 16-strong party. The selectors rejected an appeal from Sachin Tendulkar, Azharuddin's successor, for an extra player for the ten-week tour, which begins on February 28 with a four-day match against Jamaica.

Madan Lal, the India coach, also failed to persuade the selectors to name five specialist new-ball bowlers. The party includes four seam bowlers and two spinners There was again no place for Sanjay Manjrekar and Vinod Kambli, the middle-order batsmen.

The first Test starts at Sabina Park, Jamaica, on March 6. The tour will feature five Test matches and four one-day internationals.

The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) is to meet in Antigua on Saturday to finalise its bid to stage the World Cup in 2003. Officials are also hoping to persuade the International Cricket Council (ICC) to hold the tournament every two years.

The 2003 event has already been awarded to South Africa — England are hosts in 1999 — but the WICB is planning what Andrew Sealy, its secretary, described as a "two-fold attack" before the ICC meets in Malaysia next month.

"We feel that we are entitled to the World Cup in 2003 ... but, outside of that fact, we are also keen to have the World Cup changed from every four years to every two years, and we are suggesting that 2001 is when the next World Cup could be held after 1999," Sealy said. The WICB was "cautiously optimistic" that the final decision over the 2003 venue, which is not expected until the full ICC meeting at Lord's in July, will be in its favour.

A superb innings of 67 by Asif Mujtaba, the captain, helped Pakistan A to beat Bangladesh by six wickets in the opening match of a four-team tournament in Dhaka yesterday. Needing 183 to win, Pakistan A won with 11 overs to spare. India A meet Sri Lanka A today.

Brian McMillan, the South Africa all-rounder, is doubtful for the first Test against Australia in Johannesburg next week because of damaged ankle ligaments. McMillan, 33, was flown to Pretoria for a check-up yesterday, and has been advised to rest until Monday.

Sussex have announced pre-tax profits of £2,286 for the year ended October 31. It is the ninth successive year that the county has reported a surplus.

INDIA SQUAD: S Tendulkar (captain), A Kumble, N Sidhu, A Jadeja, V Laxman, S Ganguly, R Dravid, M Azharuddin, N Mongia, S Karim, J Srinath, V Prasad, D Ganesh, A Kuruvilla, R Singh, S Joshi.

SNOOKER

Ebdon goes on the offensive

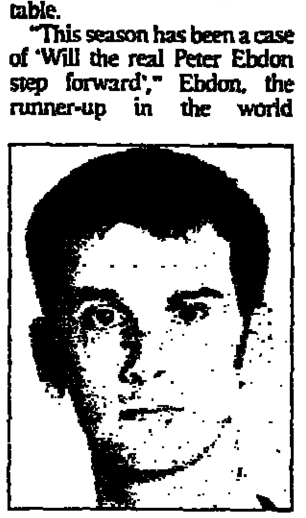
BY PHIL YATES

PETER EBDON, who defeated Mark Williams 5-4 to reach the quarter-finals of the International Open in Aberdeen yesterday, has decided to adopt a more aggressive style after slipping into an overly defensive approach.

Ebdon, from London, captured the Regal Scottish Masters title last September, but his results in tournaments carrying ranking points have been extremely disappointing since then and he has fallen from third to ninth on the provisional world list. "It wasn't deliberate, but I did become bogged down," Ebdon said. "I was just weighing everything up for too long and generally trying too hard. It led to a lot of my flair and confidence falling by the wayside."

Ebdon rudely left the arena with Williams still to pot an academic black at the end of a fourth frame that he had already won to move 3-1 ahead. This uncharacteristic display of bad manners was undoubtedly a by-product of a growing frustration, but, after the interval, he reeled off three straight frames to lead 4-3. A brown-to-black clearance in the eighth frame, which included an exceptional blind pot on the blue to a middle pocket, helped Williams to level at 4-4, but Ebdon took the deciding frame on the brown after benefiting from a questionable "miss" decision by Jan Verhaas, the referee, with one red remaining on the table.

"This season has been a case of 'Will the real Peter Ebdon step forward'," Ebdon, the runner-up in the world championship last year, said. "I was just delighted to get the bit between my teeth because my success has always been built on burning desire and adrenalin."



Ebdon: trying too hard

Ebdon goes forward to meet Ronnie O'Sullivan, who stylishly completed his 5-2 win over Dene O'Kane, of New Zealand, with a 142 total clearance. It was the highest break of the event so far and puts him in line to collect a £5,000 bonus.

"Now I've got Psycho," O'Sullivan said, in obvious reference to Ebdon's renowned intensity at the table. "I love Peter to bits because he's totally nuts. He always gets really involved in the game."

Tony Drago, who has never appeared in the semi-finals of a world ranking event, reached the last eight by recovering from a 3-2 deficit to defeat Joe Swail, of Belfast, 5-3. He will now play either John Parrott or Dave Harold. Alan McManus, the No 6 seed, enjoyed a comfortable 5-1 victory over Stuart Parnell, the world No 147.

GOLF

Purple patch shortens the odds on Price

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NICK PRICE, a winner and a runner-up in his past two events, is the favourite to win the Alfred Dunhill PGA tournament at the Houghton Golf Club, Johannesburg, starting today.

Price, from Zimbabwe, finished second in the South African Open and was then a runaway winner in the Dimension Data Pro-am at Sun City last weekend. "I really feel that I'm getting my putting touch back," Price, the former world No 1, said. He completed 72 holes on tricky, spiked up greens at Sun City without three-putting and finished 20 under par, giving him an eight-shot advantage over David Frost, of South Africa, in second place.

The Dunhill is the third of the three back-to-back PGA European Tour events on the South African circuit; the winner, in addition to claiming a £300,000 cheque, will qualify for the World Series of Golf and that tournament, in Akron, Ohio, carries a ten-year exemption to the US PGA Tour, the springboard that Price used to catapult himself on to the United States circuit 15 years ago. Before his victory at Sun City, Price had not won a tournament since the Zimbabwe Open, in December 1995, and he is eager to launch his next assault on the US Tour with another victory under his belt.

The Dunhill was dogged by bad weather last year and Sven Struver, from Germany, the eventual winner, had to come back on the Monday morning to edge out Ernie Els, of South Africa, in a rain-shortened tournament. Struver is back among a strong European contingent.

Els is not, concentrating instead on tournaments in the United States leading up to the Masters. Price's strongest challenge, therefore, should again come from Frost, who is rapidly running into form, although Gordon Sherry, from Scotland, signalled his intent in the pro-am yesterday with a hole-in-one at the 145-yard 17th.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Branson rides with Broncos

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RICHARD Branson bought a stake in the London Broncos yesterday and heard Barry Maranta, the club chairman, predict: "We will soon be the force in world rugby league." Branson declined to disclose the amount of money that he was investing, but admitted that he had taken a 15 per cent stake in the club.

Maranta said: "In three or four years the team will be the force in world rugby league. There will be no team in the world that can hold a candle to us. We've got a good strong team and we will be a match for any team on both sides of the equator.

"We are a one-city team, which is what the concept of world Super League is about. The challenge to us is how we can tap the massive human resources available to us. The enormous talent that exists in the south is where the future of London rugby lies and the untapped talent in London is really the exciting thing.

"Our under-16 team, which 12 months ago had never played rugby league, is now unbeaten in the winter competition, beating teams in the North whose lads have been playing rugby league for eight or nine years; and our seconds are beating historic teams by 30 or 40 points.

"So, although we will have one or two high-profile players, such as Martin Offiah, I can't wait for the day when the 19, 20 and 21-year-olds start coming through, because we've put a lot of effort, energy and expertise into developing our youngsters."

Branson explained his eagerness to link up with the Broncos, saying: "Quite a few people will be wondering why we are investing in rugby league instead of football, rugby union or even cricket.

Branson: buys stake

"The answer is that rugby league is one of Britain's fastest-growing sports and has been under-developed in the South, but it is a great spectator sport and could become the main sport in the country."

Maurice Lindsay, the Super League chairman, was also confident of the game's prospects now that the legal wrangle involving the Australian Super League has been resolved. He said: "I can assure Richard that he is coming into what is, internationally, potentially going to be the next great sport around the world.

"We have welcomed more nations to RL in the past two years than ever and it's set for a real explosion."

Offiah, who will link up with the club in time for the start of Super League next month, said that he believed that the Broncos' development would help to attract more top quality players to the capital's side.

FOOTBALL: ENGLAND AND ITALY EMERGE WITH HONOURS EVEN FROM INTERNATIONAL SERIES

Newton preserves nation's pride

Serie B XI 1
Nationwide League XI .. 1

From Russell Kempson
in Genoa

ENGLAND'S third representative meeting against Italy in eight days brought the keenly-contested series to a fittingly even conclusion in Genoa yesterday afternoon. The senior England side lost 1-0 at Wembley in the World Cup, the under-21s won 1-0 at Ashton Gate in the European championship and the Nationwide League drew against Serie B here in the Luigi Ferraris stadium. Won one, lost one and drawn one: all square, honour satisfied and everyone the best of friends.

As an exercise in exposing the League's finest young players to the ways of the football world, the three-day Nationwide trip proved an unqualified success. Brian Horton, the Huddersfield Town manager, coached, briefed and cajoled them throughout their stay at the ancient sea port — with not a whiff of scandal, or barely a harsh word, marring their sojourn.

It was a chance, too, for the great and good of the Football League and Football Association to indulge in a spot of lobbying, supposedly discreet, for Italian support for England's embryonic bid to stage the 2006 World Cup finals. The FA was represented by Keith Wiseman, the chairman, Graham Kelly, the chief executive, and Jimmy Armfield, the technical consultant.

In the League corner, Gordon McKeag, the retiring president, and David Sheepshanks, the new chairman, attended assorted functions and conducted diplomatic business. The ubiquitous Terry Venables, the former England coach now in charge of Australia, also turned up to lend his cockney charm to proceedings. "I am talking to investors," he said, cryptically.

Business was similarly brisk on the pitch, with the Nationwide Select busying themselves impressively against a Serie B side of much greater experience. Six of their players were contracted to Serie A clubs, but had been loaned out until the end of the season. Such a system in England appears closer with every month.

Not surprisingly, Serie B dominated the initial phases on a hard, bumpy pitch that can only hinder Sampdoria's chances of wresting the Italian championship from the grip of Juventus. Perri curled a free kick narrowly wide of Marshall, the Norwich City goalkeeper, and also his far post, then Marshall tipped over a rasping drive from Zanchetta before Pirri went close again.

Gradually, the English youngsters grew in stature, verbally exhorting each other to greater efforts in the near-deserted stadium. They did not need the encouragement of thousands to spur them on: Horton had done his job well.

Bradbury, the former Army private and Portsmouth striker, led the line aggressively, but displayed deft touches, too. When he nodded on a deep cross from Rogers, leaving Gianello clawing at thin air, no team-mate was on hand to take advantage. A chance wasted.

Serie B responded weakly, but, against most expectations, went ahead in the 35th minute. Holland's misdirected crossfield pass was easily cut out by Pirri, the Cremonese forward farmed out to Salernitana, and he ran on to beat Marshall with a cute, left-footed flick.

Dyer should have equalised four minutes later when, seizing on an error by Baccin, he had only Gianello to beat. He hesitated, though, made the angle too acute and Gianello was able to stop his close-range shot.

In the two previous years of the inter-league fixture, 15 of the 27 players used by the League have gone on to represent England at under-21 level. Undoubtedly, a few more will follow them.

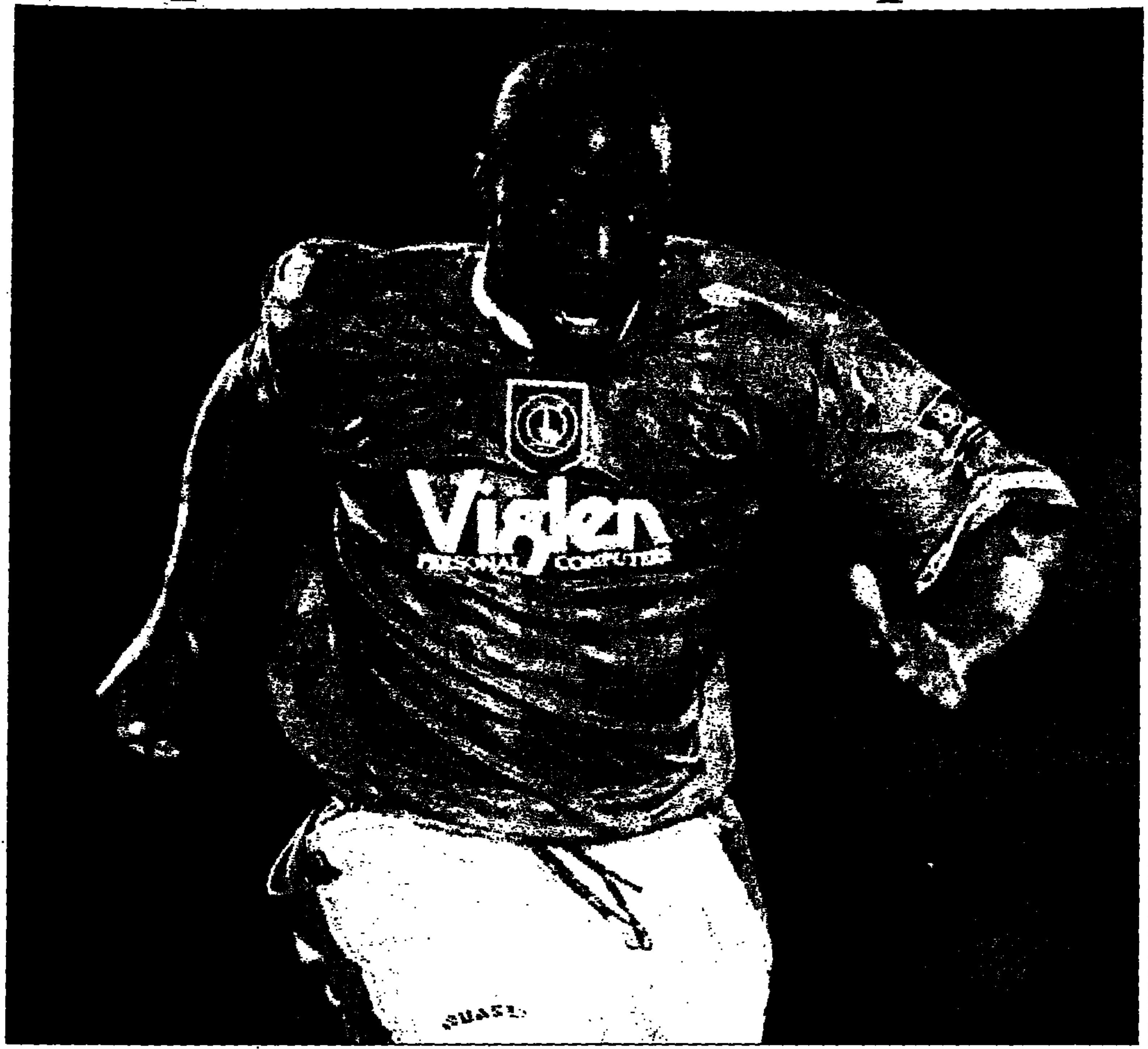
Gianello tipped over a powerful attempt from Dyer early in the second half, but the Nationwide League equalised, deservedly, in the 62nd minute. Dyer cut in from the right and passed to Newton, who had arrived on the pitch only two minutes earlier as a substitute for Rogers. Newton homed in on the target, drew Gianello out and cleverly slipped his shot past him. It was only his second goal of the season — his first, for Charlton Athletic, was scored back in September.

It could have signalled more, with Serie B suddenly looking vulnerable. Dyer headed a near-post cross from Newton marginally over the crossbar, with Gianello struggling to reach it, and Serrant created the best chance in the final minute. He crossed superbly from the left, as the ball appeared likely to roll over the byline, but Dyer and Newton each had efforts blocked by the desperate Serie B defence. No matter; an honourable draw, with infant careers enhanced and Anglo-Italian relations firmly cemented.

SERIE B (3-5-2): M Gianello (Chievo) — E Brioschi (Venezia, sub: S Mercuri, Torino, 63min), D Baccin (Cesena), L Mezzano (Torino) — A Zanchetta (Foggia), G-P Rutzittu (Genoa), G Zanetti (Cesena), G Tedesco (Palermo, sub: C Amoroso, Empoli, 74), L Lanna (Chievo) — A Pirri (Salernitana, sub: V Chianese, Foggia, 81), M Campolonghi (Brescia).

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE (3-5-2): A Marshall (Norwich City) — A Moses (Barnsley), D Mills (Norwich City), C Serrant (Oldham Athletic) — D Hamilton (Bradford City), B Hughes (Wrexham), C Holland (Birmingham City), D Bullock (Barnsley), A Rogers (Tranmere Rovers, sub: S Newton, Charlton Athletic, 60) — B Dyer (Crystal Palace), L Bradbury (Portsmouth, sub: S Taylor, Bolton Wanderers, 60).

Referee: C Colombo (France)



Newton, of Charlton, ensured the Nationwide League Select team left Genoa with a deserved draw yesterday with his second-half equaliser

Semi-final bows to weather

EVEN the presence of ITV television cameras could not save Stockport County from watching their biggest occasion of the season being washed away last night. After a flurry of memorable giant-killing performances, their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, first leg encounter with Middlesbrough had won a prime-time slot on the national network, only for the weather to intervene. Two hours before the 8pm kick-off at Edgeley Park and after only a brief inspection, David Elleray, the referee, called the game off.

"The pitch represents a danger to the players," Elleray said. "There is a substantial amount of surface water, which means players will be unable to control themselves in sliding tackles. There is the likelihood of three or four more hours of rain and it could have meant us starting the game and then abandoning it."

David Jones, the Stockport manager, agreed with the decision. "There's no way it could have been played with the amount of rain that has fallen in the past few hours," he said. "It was not going to get any better." The game is likely to be played next Tuesday or Wednesday.

All three scheduled fixtures in Scotland last night also fell victim to the weather, including Rangers' game with Dundee United at Ibrox.

Survivors forced to postpone dreams of cup glory

By Peter Ball

WIMBLEDON'S draw against Leicester City at Filbert Street on Tuesday gave them a slight edge in their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, but, with the second leg three weeks away, both clubs were concerned afterwards with more pressing matters than thoughts of a Wembley appearance. "It's a long time away," Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, said.

"We've got to play 15 matches in five weeks," Joe Kinnear, his opposite number, added. "So have we," O'Neill rejoined, "and we haven't got the security of the extra 12 or 13 points that Wimbledon have."

The loss of Robert Ullathorne, Leicester's £600,000 signing from Osasuna, with a broken ankle, after only 12 minutes, added to O'Neill's problems and he was more preoccupied immediately with the game against Derby County on Saturday. With both teams on the fringe of the relegation zone, it will be a key match.

Wimbledon's ambitions are still focused at the top rather than the bottom of the table, although, with Coca-Cola Cup semi-final and FA Cup sixth-round places already achieved, a cup success would seem to offer their most likely route into Europe. They may have to play better than they did on Tuesday, however.

Wimbledon's forwards have won a lot of praise this season, but the decision to bring in Goodman, the new Ireland international, as a third striker, did not have the desired effect. Ekoku and Gayle had quiet games after a promising opening. "I'm expecting a little more from my front players in the home match," Kinnear said.

By contrast, Heskey continually threatened Wimbledon's security, even in the first half, when his side were second best. "When we had to readjust after losing Robert Ullathorne, we were penned back in, he was our outlet," O'Neill said.

"He was almost winning the game single-handedly for us. He kept it going in the second half, we got more help to him, and he did great. He is a terrific talent."

Ironically, Heskey wasted Leicester's best chance as he put the ball over the bar from almost under it as he came in to meet Walsh's flick, but he came close to winning the game with a late shot, turned on to the post by Sullivan and, while he is in this mood, Wimbledon (and Chelsea, their FA Cup opponents who also await their visit) will write off Leicester at their peril.

Blackburn may seek redress if Eriksson withdraws

By Peter Ball
and Kevin McCarra

THE chances of Sven Goran Eriksson taking over as manager of Blackburn Rovers in the summer were looking increasingly slim last night. Eriksson, the coach to Sampdoria, was still refusing to confirm his plans yesterday, but his cryptic remarks increased the suspicion that he has now decided to move to Lazio.

"I haven't got any comment to make," Eriksson said. "That can be construed in a certain way, but I can't speak about it, and it will be in the next couple of weeks that I will be able to announce my decision."

Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, and Tom Finn, the club secretary, were unavailable for comment yesterday, but it is understood that Blackburn are taking legal advice and will be looking for compensation in the region of £500,000 if Erikssson, who signed a letter of agreement to join them on July 1, now decides to accept Lazio's offer.

The confusion was increased yesterday when Tord Grip, Sweden's assistant manager, who had been filing reports on Blackburn for Eriksson, said that there had never been any question of him moving to Lancashire as Eriksson's assistant.

"I have just arrived home from Thailand with the national squad and I am aware of the rumours and stories," Grip said.

"I am as anxious as anyone to find out the truth, but it is not correct to say that I have been promised the assistant manager's job at Blackburn. That is quite wrong. Sven asked me to follow Blackburn and provide him with reports, and that is what I have been doing."

Blackburn did have one piece of good news out of Scandinavia yesterday. Per Pedersen, Odense Sportklub's Denmark international striker, arrived at Ewood Park and, if training goes well over the next few days, he is expected to complete a £2.5 million transfer.

Rangers are to sign Tony Vidmar, an Australia international, in the summer when he has completed his contract with NAC Breda, of Holland. Since Vidmar holds an Italian passport, he is regarded as a citizen of the European Union, so no transfer fee is required.

The move for Vidmar will stimulate speculation that David Robertson will be leaving Ibrox. Robertson's contract ends in June and there have been reports that he would like to move to England. Rangers say that negotiations with Robertson are continuing.

CYCLING

Wohlberg starts positively

From Peter Bryan
in Kota Kinabalu
Malaysia

PAUL MANNING, of Great Britain, missed third place by 0.01sec in the opening stage of the 12-day Tour of Langkawi in Malaysia yesterday, when several of Europe's highly-paid riders were humbled.

Manning, who will spend part of this season in France with the intent of gaining a professional contract, was not alone in providing surprises in the 19.1-kilometre time-trial on testing circuit.

Eric Wohlberg, Canada's champion against the clock, was a convincing winner with a time of 24min 09sec and starts the stage today, of 115 kilometres, at Kuching, in the neighbouring state of Sarawak, wearing the race leader's yellow jersey. He has a lead of 27sec from Andrei Mizourov, of Kazakhstan, whose team placed three riders in the top 13.

Among those who suffered the surprising ignominy of a lowly place was Gianni Bugno, twice the world road champion. In mitigation, there were complaints that it was a mistake to have the time-trial on the opening day because many riders would be tired after long flights from abroad.

Travel did not appear to affect Wohlberg, however; he and 44 others pushed Bugno down into 46th position, one place behind Andrea Tafi, his team colleague. Wohlberg, understandably, was delighted, especially as he started training only ten days before leaving for Malaysia.

HOCKEY

Students get shooting lesson

Army 3
Cambridge University 1

By Sydney Friskin

CAMBRIDGE University fell short of firepower and lost to the Army at Milton Keynes yesterday in the run-up to the annual match against Oxford on March 11.

The Army's four-man middle line, in which Hazlitt was the mainstay, generally had the measure of Mannall and Playfair, the Cambridge front runners, who could not penetrate significantly, despite the support of Bateman.

On a cold and windy afternoon, the playing conditions were difficult. Cambridge broke through in the early minutes, with Playfair forcing a short corner. Williams, the Army goalkeeper, saved a shot by Meredith, who had no luck on the follow-up. The Army soon put pressure on the Cambridge defence and Piotrowicz, the goalkeeper, was called on to save from Hazlitt at a short corner. The Army forced two more short corners before Mannall broke free to fire a shot at Williams, who saved comfortably.

The Army took the lead a minute before the interval. Hemmings passed from the left to Boyce, who scored with a strong, well-placed shot. The lead was increased four minutes into the second half when Tapp picked up a free hit and scored from the top of the circle.

After another attempt by Playfair to beat the goalkeeper had failed, the Army increased their lead when Hazlitt converted the Army's sixth short corner, in the 58th minute.

Cambridge retaliated with a well-taken goal by Mayer from Bateman's free hit in the 65th minute, but, two minutes later, Mayer failed to convert a penalty stroke, his shot travelling high and wide. The Army forced seven short corners to four by Cambridge, who had previously lost to the Royal Navy and the RAF.

ARMY: Maj Williams (Royal Signals), Maj P Boxell (RA), S/Sgt K Edwards (RAC), Cpl D Evans (RLC), Capt M Thomas (Infantry), Capt A Nye (Infantry), 2nd/Lt P Tapp (Royal Artillery), Capt S Hazlitt (Infantry), Capt S Hemmings (RE), S/Sgt I Bowry (AGC), 2nd/Lt J Boyce (RA). Sub used: Lt N Colman (RA).

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY: * P Piotrowicz (Radcliffe and Fitzwilliam); * D Churton (Wellington Coll and St Catharine's), I Sands (Eastbourne and Robinson), J Mayer (The Perse and St John's), O Brew (Whitgift and Emmanuel), * T Parr (RGS, High Wycombe and Sidney Sussex), T Gilman (Marlborough and Hughes Hall), * M Meredith (Ratcliffe and Clare), * I Bateman (Bishop's Stortford and Emmanuel), * G Playfair (Methodist, Belfast and Robinson), C Mannall (Pilgrim Upper and Homerton). Subs used: D Heathcote (Katharine Lady Berkley and Christ's), C Lipscomb (Kingston GS and Sidney Sussex).

Umpires: B Matson (Combined Services) and N Cherrill (Eastern Counties).

* denotes Blue

Bateman, left, of Cambridge, puts in a tackle against Boxell, of the Army, yesterday

BASKETBALL

Nemeth recalls Whyte after England ban

IAN WHYTE returns to the England team that completes its programme in the European championship semi-final round when it plays Russia at Guildford next Wednesday (Nicholas Harling writes).

Whyte, the former Leopards centre, was banned from the recent game against Portugal after kicking over a chair in annoyance at a decision during a match in Germany in December, but, after England's defeat against Portugal, Laszlo Nemeth, the coach, has recalled Whyte, who recently moved from Besançon, the French club, to Porto.

Along with Whyte — the replacement for Martin Gottfried, of London Towers — all of England's foreign-based players are available to confront opponents who have already won group B.

ENGLAND SQUAD: I Whyte (Porto, Por), J Amaechi (Panathinaikos, Gr), S Bucknall (Iraklis, Gr), S Dunkley (Besançon, Fr), D Henman (Trieste, It), N Austin (London Towers), R Baker (Leopards), P Grainger (Manchester Giants), R Huggins (Sheffield Sharks), I McKinney (Sheffield Sharks), J Swaine (Sheffield Sharks), P Scantlebury (Thames Valley Tigers, captain)

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Under-21 match

ITALIAN LGE (1) 1 FOOTBALL LGE (0) 1
Pirri 35 Newton 62
500

Tuesday's late results

COCA-COLA CUP: Semi-final, first leg: Leicester City 0 Wimbledon 0

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division: Chesterfield 1 Rotherham United 1. Third division: Rochdale 0 Hereford United 0; Scunthorpe United 0 Chester City 2; Torquay United 1 Mansfield Town 2.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: Semi-finals: Northern section: Shrewsbury Town 1 Carlisle United 2. Southern section: Colchester United 2 Northampton Town 1; Watford 0 Peterborough United 1

AREA FINAL DRAWS: Northern section: Carlisle United v Crewe Alexandra or Stockport County. Southern section: Peterborough United v Colchester United

☐ Ties to be played over two legs. The first leg will be played during week commencing March 10, the second leg during week commencing March 17

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Kettering Town 3 Farnborough Town 1; Dover Athletic 2 Welling United 1.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Raith Rovers 1 Motherwell 5. Second division: Postponed: Clyde v Dumbarton. Third division: Arbroath 1 Albion Rovers 2. Postponed: Alloa v Inverness Caledonian Thistle

TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Fourth round replay: Dundee 0 Greenock Morton 1 (aet)

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Flixton 1 Droylsden 3. Leigh 1 Farsley Celtic 2. Cup: Fourth round: Gainsborough T 2 Knowsley United 1. President's Cup: Second round: Blyth Spartans 2 Worksop 2. Radcliffe Borough 3 Alfreton T 1. Unifilla first division Cup: Second-round replay: Great Harwood T 2 Netherfield 3.

GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City 0 Porthmadog 0; Barry Town 7 Ebbw Vale 3

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Cambridge C 1 Cheltenham 4; Nuneaton 1 Merthyr 1. Midland division: Moor Green 5 Dudley T 3; Sutton Coldfield T 0 Stafford R 4. Southern division: Buckingham T 1 Yate T 3; Cirencester T 0 Forest Green 1

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Grays 1 St Albans 2; Hendon 2 Kingstonian 1; Hitchin 5 Bromley 2; Staines 2 Heybridge 2; Yeading 3 Dulwich 0. First division: Maidenhead United 4 Whyteleafe 3. Second division: Witham T 0 Collier Row and Romford 1. Third division: Northwood 0 Clapton 0; Wealdstone 6 Braintree T 0

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Oldham 0 Sheffield Wednesday 0. First division: Coventry 0 Preston 0. Second division: Manchester City 3 Bradford 4. Third division: Scarborough 2 Lincoln 3

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Southwick 1 Shoreham 2

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Wolverhampton United 1 Ludlow 1.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Arnold T 3 Hatfield Main 1. Ashfield United 0 Hallam 2. North Ferriby United 2 Hucknall T 0

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Folkestone Invicta 0 Thamesmead T 3. First division: Cup: Quarter-final replay. Slade Green 2 Deal T 1

IRISH LEAGUE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT CUP: Quarter-finals: Crusaders 2 Linfield 1 (aet); Glenavon 4 Cliftonville 2; Glentoran 3 Ards 0, Portadown 1 Coleraine 0.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Ford United 2 Concord Rangers 2; Stansted 1 Saffron Walden T 0

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Under-16 international match: England 4 Scotland 1 (at Gigg Lane). FA Premier League Under-16 Trophy: Berkshire 0 Devon 1.

FRENCH LEAGUE CUP: Semi-finals: Bordeaux 2 Montpellier 2 (aet, 1-1 after 90min, Bordeaux win 7-6 on pens). Strasbourg 2 AS Monaco 1

SPANISH LEAGUE: Compostela 2 Sevilla 0

AN EXCLUSIVE OFFER WITH

THE TIMES
NOW PRINTED IN CHARLEROI

Make your family or friends living abroad feel at home

Set up a subscription to The Times for them at **substantial discounts** off local cover price and let them enjoy **early morning delivery on the day of publication.**

SINGLE DAY SUBSCRIPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE.

The Times. Your family and friends are missing the best of quality reading without it.

Same day hand delivery is available as follows: **Belgium** — main cities; **France** — Paris and postcodes 92, 93, 94; **Luxembourg** — nationwide, same day delivery by post; **Netherlands** — main cities; **Switzerland** — Geneva, Bern & Zurich. Mail delivery is usually one day late (except rest of Europe). Please call for details on hand delivery areas and mail delivery.

HAND DELIVERY RATES (except Rest of Europe)

Country	Currency	12 months	Savings on cover price	6 months	3 months	Single Day (Mon-Fri) 1 year	Saturday Only 1 year
Belgium	(BFr)	13698	45%	7534	3938	2283	3329
France	(FFr)	1985	55%	1091	571	331	502
Luxembourg	(LFr)	9164	51%	5040	2635	1527	2611
Netherlands	(Dfl)	778	45%	428	224	130	188
Switzerland	(SFr)	809	35%	445	232	135	177
Rest of Europe	(£)	474	n/a	237	118.5	79.04	130

THE TIMES SUBSCRIPTION OFFER [illegible]

Name ____
Address (home/office) ____
____
____
Telephone ____
(*) Debited in £ Sterling at the current exchange rate

Please enter my subscription for:
☐ 12 months ☐ 6 months ☐ 3 months
☐ Monday to Saturday ☐ Saturday only
☐ Other day(s) — Please specify: ____
Payment by:
☐ Cheque (made payable to News International)
☐ Credit card (*): ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard/Access
☐ AmEx No. ____ Expiry: _/_
Signature: ____
Print Name: ____

Please return to: News International, Subscriptions Department, P.O. Box 14, [illegible]

CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

Wolde in poor health after waiting four years in jail without charge

Running out of time at end of world

BRYANT'S EYE

HULTON GETTY / ALLSPORT

Wolde, left, on a training run with Bikila, his fellow Ethiopian Olympic marathon champion

There are ordeals in life that make marathons — even Olympic marathons — seem like an afternoon stroll.

Mamo Wolde, who clambered onto the winner's rostrum after the Olympic marathon in Mexico City in 1968, is about to set out on the last, and toughest, lap of the worst ordeal of his life.

Wolde has been held in an Ethiopian jail without charge, without trial, and without the benefit of legal advice, for the past 4½ years. The International Olympic Committee and the International Amateur Athletic Federation have continually lobbied to have him released. Amnesty International has vigorously campaigned against holding Wolde and others like him without charges and trial.

Now, at last, there is news of action of a sort. Wolde, who has always maintained his innocence, is to be charged. He still does not know what the specific charges are to be; he still has not been told what it is he is supposed to have done; but he knows that the ordeal is far from over. It was announced last week that Wolde is one of 5,198 Ethiopians to be charged with genocide, war crimes and murder.

Yet there was a time when Wolde was hailed as one of his land's finest heroes. He and Abebe Bikila, his countryman, were the great African double act of Olympic marathon history. Bikila won the event barefoot in Rome in 1960, and again four years later in Tokyo, just six weeks after an appendix operation and this time wearing shoes.

In Mexico City, in 1968, a leg injury forced Bikila to pull out after ten miles, but Wolde went on to win, making it three in a row for Ethiopia. His career spanned four Olympic games. In 1956, in Melbourne, Ethiopia competed for the first time, and Wolde, young and raw, finished last and almost unnoticed in the heats of the 800 and 1,500 metres. He was also in the 4 x 400 metres relay team — who also finished last in their heat.

Yet, in the high altitude of Mexico City, Wolde came back to win gold by three minutes in the marathon and silver in the 10,000 metres. His athletic ability had won him, too, a career in the army. He went home a hero to Addis Ababa, where he was promoted to captain in the imperial guard of the aging Emperor Haile Selassie, and he was promised a fine new home — but he never got it.

In 1974 Haile Selassie was overthrown by a military coup. The army leaders, under Mengistu, established a ruthless communist regime. A reign of terror followed for 17 years, with regulations outlawing private land ownership and assembly ruthlessly enforced by revolutionary guards. According to Amnesty International, when the Government was overthrown in 1974, Wolde was thrown out of the army and went on to work as an athletic coach up to the time of his arrest in 1992.

In late 1991 the new Ethiopian Government rounded up more than 2,000 alleged officials and collaborators with the Mengistu regime, and Wolde was caught up in this sweep and arrested. Except for two short periods of temporary release, he has been detained without trial ever since.

It is difficult, even for visitors to his jail, to work out exactly what it is alleged he has done. Kenny Moore, the American athlete and sportswriter, who ran with him in Mexico and who finished a place behind him in the Olympic marathon in Munich in 1972, was allowed to visit Wolde two years ago.

At the prison, known as The End of the World, Moore established that the original allegation was that Wolde had got involved in a summary execution in 1978, but that there were many witnesses who said that Wolde had shot nobody. There was only one person levelling the accusation against Wolde, and the other witnesses believed that there was an attempt to pin the blame on Wolde to save the skin of a corrupt official.

Moore found Wolde in poor physical and mental health, suffering from liver trouble, bronchitis and hearing loss — but still adamant that he was completely innocent. Other visitors, including Amnesty International, have confirmed that Wolde is a sick man, with his eyesight also now failing, and none of them has been able to establish any substance in the allegations against him.

The news last week that there may at last be specific charges and trials of such prisoners has been welcomed by Amnesty, but even so they are concerned that those charged in Addis Ababa could receive death sentences if found guilty — the fate that could await 46 defendants already on trial there. Amnesty opposes the death penalty in all cases as the ultimate, cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment.

> 'Originally he was alleged to have been involved in an execution'

"There has been enough killing in Ethiopia," the organisation said, "and further executions will not right the wrongs or contribute towards better respect for human rights in the country now and in the future."

At least, with the promise of a trial, Wolde, now 65, will not rot away in The End of the World without even a charge being brought against him.

In Mexico City, when Wolde brought gold and glory to Ethiopia with the race of his life, the world watched with admiration. If, at last, he is put on trial, perhaps this time for his life, Ethiopia should know that, once again, the eyes of the world will be on them and the fate of Mamo Wolde.

JOHN BRYANT

SQUASH: CHANGED SCORING SYSTEM LEADS TO SURPRISING RESULTS AMONG SUPER LEAGUE PROFESSIONALS

Players finding pitfalls in spectator-friendly format

By Colin McQuillan

WITH Mark Cairns, the British champion, losing to Derek Ryan, of Ireland, and Simon Parke, the England No 1, going down to Del Harris, of Colchester, in the Super Squash League (SSL) this week, some players are suggesting that the new, nine-point, American scoring system, brought in this season, is the reason for such surprise results.

"It certainly changes things," Andrew Shelley, the SSL director, said. "We moved from 15-point games to consolidate the evenings from an entertainment point of view and it has been an unqualified success. Not a single tie has finished 3-0 so far this season and few matches last beyond 55 minutes. With a single show court, this is a perfect format for club audiences."

The defeat of Cairns, by 9-6, 9-0, 5-9, 2-9, 9-3, as Ryan led Rowlands Manchester to a 2-1 home win over Dunraven Maesteg, and that of Parke, by 9-7, 2-9, 7-9, 8-10, when he dropped a vital home point to Harris in Surbiton's 2-1 win over ICL Lionhearts, the defending SSL champions, illustrates the downside of a scoring system adopted purely for presentation reasons.

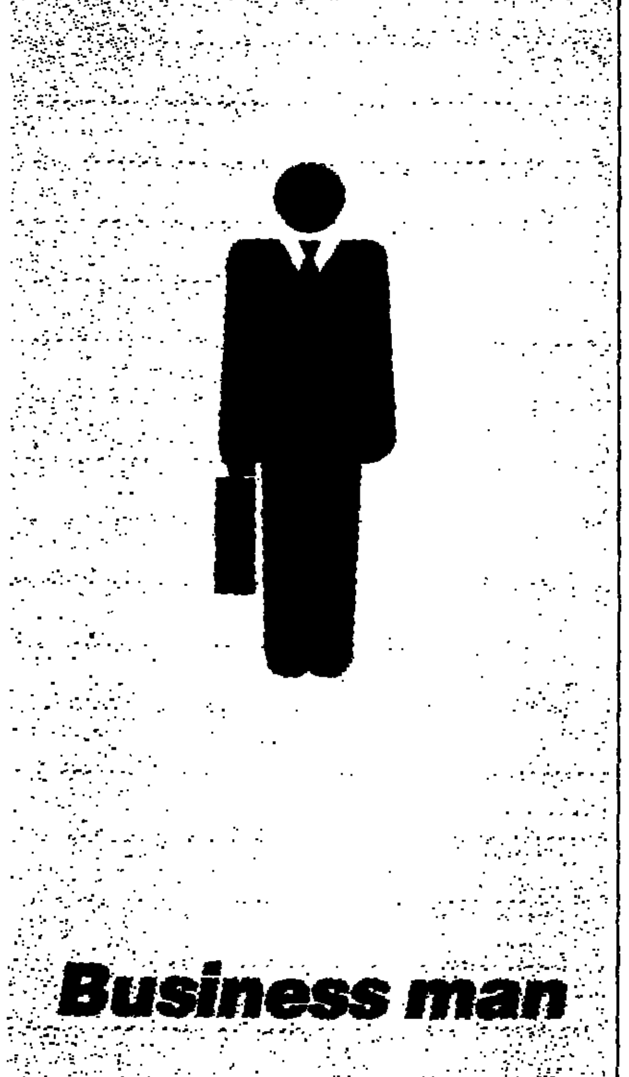
Cairns and Parke developed through the national squad system set up by Jonah Barrington and the late Edward Poore. They are classic English players, long on patient rallying rather than the inventive aggression coming out of Australia, Europe and North America. Point-per-rally scoring over the short nine-point course tends to rattle them.

Nothing illustrates the changed situation more than the complete failure of Mark Chaloner, the discovery of last season, to win a single match for ICL Lionhearts so far this season. Yet Chaloner is one of the strongest advocates on the SSL panel of the new scoring, Shelley insists.

"With professional league play, we are providing entertainment as much as competition," he said. "It is not like bidding for the game's great historic titles or even like club play with no time confinements.

"Mark is a slow starter, who knows he has to find a way to win within the changing demands of the league's presentation devices. Just another professional skill, really."

Results, page 42



Business man

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Schladming	30	50	good	powder	good	snow	1	19/2
(More fresh snow; excellent skiing)								
St Anton	80	270	powder	powder	good	fine	-3	19/2
(Superb powder skiing but high avalanche risk)								
FRANCE								
Flaine	100	250	good	powder	good	sun	-14	18/2
(Fantastic powder skiing everywhere)								
La Plagne	150	210	good	powder	good	sun	-2	18/2
(Excellent skiing conditions, fresh powder)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	90	350	good	crust	good	fair	2	18/2
(High winds limiting skiing but snow excellent)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	55	300	good	powder	good	fine	0	18/2
(Powder snow everywhere, perfect conditions)								
St Moritz	70	180	good	powder	good	sun	0	18/2
(Excellent skiing on and off piste)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain L - lower slopes; U - upper

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 42

HAPTOTROPISM

(c) The phenomenon whereby plant organs, as the tendrils of climbing plants, exhibit tropic movements in response to the stimulus of touch.

LYCID

(c) Of or pertaining to a beetle of the family *Lycidae*. From the Greek proper name *Lukos*. The generic name is *Lycus*, introduced by J. C. Fabricius in *Mantissa Insectorum*, 1787. "The cerambycid beetle *Elytroleptus ignitus* is a mimic of the lycid beetles *Lycus loripes* and *Lycus simulans*. They are typical cases of Batesian mimicry, the cerambycids being palatable to predators but gaining protection by looking like the distasteful lycids."

MOULI

(c) A kitchen electric mixer. An affectionate shortened form of the French proprietary brand name *Moulinette*.

HOPO

(c) A trap for game consisting of two converging hedges in the form of the letter V, with a pit at the angle, into which the game is driven. From an African language.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. . . . Rxd3!; 2. cxd3 (2. Qxd3 Kxf7 wins a piece) 2. . . . Qc2+; 3. Ka1 Qc1+; 4. Rxc1 Rxc1 checkmate.

PRICES NOW INCLUDE FREE UK DELIVERY TO TIMES READERS (REST OF WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM). STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY (£1 = $1.69).
TIMES CROSSWORDS Books 10, 11, 12, 13 £3.99 each. The Times Concise — Book 2 (240 puzzles) £5.99. Collins Thesaurus £14.99. Crossword Solver's Dictionary £11.95 (UK only). Crossword Manual £9.99. The First Omnibus Book of The Sunday Times Crosswords. The 2nd Omnibus Book of The Times Crosswords. The Third Book of The Times Jumbo Crosswords (cryptic) £4.99 each. The Times Night Sky 1997 £3.50
TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS by David Akenhead — Crosswords on Computer 3.5 diskette (area of crosswords each, solutions facility and optional HELP levels). Includes: Times Crosswords (19) - Omnibus 1 & 2 (2 - 2). The Times Concise (4). The Times Two (5). The Times Jubilee Edition 1932-87 (1) (brackets denote number of diskettes).
Prices per title/diskette 1 2 Additional disks
IBM MS-DOS and Acorn RISC Os £10.25 £14.99 £5 each Please specify
NEW Windows version for IBM PCs £15.00 £22.00 £5 each (Inc VAT)
Send cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London, SE13 5QW (tel: 0181-852 4575, 24hrs). No credit cards. Delivery up to eight days.

Human

Television that takes the stress out of business.
Watch 'The New Manager' this weekend.

EBN

On Sky and Cable TV
EBN: 0171 653 9378 or http://www.ebn.co.uk

RADIO CHOICE

A danger kept in the dark

Document: And Sheep May Safely Graze. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

The cloud of radioactive contamination that drifted across the whole of Europe after the Chernobyl explosion in 1986 was said to have settled, in part, over the hills of northern Wales. The result was that many of the sheep bound for market, and ultimately our dinner tables, had a temporary reprieve because they were banned from the food chain. Most of us had thought that was the end of the matter, but this edition of Document raises a possibility not previously known to me: that some of the contamination came not from Chernobyl but from a fire at Windscale nuclear plant, 30 years earlier. Rob Edwards, of the *New Scientist*, examines documentation not previously in the public domain.

In Repertory. *Radio 3, 1.00pm.*

Radio 3 is good at programmes that uncover how artists in many fields actually operate and why they tackle their roles in a particular way. This new series is presented by Rodney Milnes, the opera critic of *The Times* and editor of *Opera* magazine, and is devoted to leading opera singers and the roles that they have made famous. I am not, it should be said, an opera buff, but great chefs are fascinating to hear, even if one cannot cook. Thus, the first interview, with Ileana Cotrubas, the Romanian-born soprano, is an absorbing glimpse into her approach to one of the great soprano roles, that of Violetta in Verdi's *La Traviata*.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe, includes Newsbeat **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Jo Whiley, includes at **12.30pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Kevin Greening **6.15** Newsbeat **6.30** Evening Session with Steve Lamacq **8.30** John Peel **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00am** Dave Pearce **4.00am** Clive Warren with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up To Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Anne Robinson **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** I'm Sorry I Haven't Got a Clue. With Humphrey Lyttelton, Barry Cryer, Graeme Garden, Tony Hawks and the late Willie Rushton (r) **7.30** David Allan **9.00** Paul Jones **10.00** Teenagers in Love Randall Lee Rose looks through the doo-wop archives (3/3) **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, includes Racing Preview **8.35** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson **7.35** On the Line **8.00** Inside Edge, with Mihir Bose **9.00** SportsAmerica, with Alton Byrd **9.30** Sportshop **10.00** News Talk, with Paul Reynolds **11.00** News Extra **12.05am** After Hours — Early Call, with Vincent Hanna **2.05** Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

5.00am Chris Ashley and Sandy Warr **7.00** Paul Ross **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00** Lorraine Kelly **2.00pm** Tommy Boyd **4.00** Peter Deeley **7.00** Moz Dee's Sportszone **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour. **5.30am** Europe Today **7.15** Off the Shelf **7.30** Network UK **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** Composer of the Month **8.45** Health Matters **9.05** Business **9.15** Sports International **9.45** Sport **10.30** BBC English **10.45** Off the Shelf **11.30** Meridian On Screen **12.05pm** Business **12.15** Britain Today **12.30** Assignment **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Multitrack **3.05** Sport **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Network UK **4.15** World Today **4.30** BBC English **4.45** Britain Today **5.30** Business **5.45** Sport **6.30** Assignment **7.01** Outlook **7.25** Words of Faith **7.30** John Peel **9.05** Business **9.15** Britain Today **9.30** Meridian Books **10.30** World Today **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.10** Take Five **11.15** Soundbyte **11.30** World Ranking **12.30am** Good Books **12.45** Britain Today **1.30** Outlook **1.55** Words of Faith **2.30** A History of the British Theatre **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Focus on Faith **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto. Matthias Georg Monn (Cello Concerto in G minor) **3.00** Jamie Crick **7.00** Classic Newsnight with John Brunning **7.30** Sonata. George Enescu (Violin Sonata Torso) **8.00** Evening Concert. Mendelssohn (A Midsummer Night's Dream); Arnold (Clarinet Concerto No 1 Op 20); Bliss (Colour Symphony); Hert Chappell (Guitar Concerto, Caribbean); Vaughan Williams (A Lark Ascending) **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **10.00** Graham Dene **1.00pm** Jeremy Clark **4.00** Nicky Horne **7.00** Paul Coyte (FM) / Robin Banks (AM) **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00am** Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Andrew McGregor. Includes Bach (Organ Concerto No 1 in D minor); Schumann (Symphony No 4 in D minor); Locatelli (Concerto grosso in B flat); Liszt (Tasso); Howells (Magnificat); Strauss (Morgen (Befreit)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Respighi (Fountains of Rome); Telemann (Trio in C); Chopin (Nocturne in E minor); Bartok (Piano Concerto No 3)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Includes Chopin (Prelude, Op 24); Bach (Orchestral Suite No 4 in D); Lutoslawski (Venetian Games); Respighi (Concerto all'antica); Beethoven (Fidelio); Sor (Variations on a Scottish Theme); Mozart (Andante in C); Schubert (Du bist die Ruh); Brahms (Serenade No 2)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Pfitzner

1.00pm In Repertory. See Choice

2.00 Music in an Emerging State, with Michael Dervan. Vanbrugh Quartet, with Hugh Tinney, piano, performs Aloys Fleischmann (Piano Quintet); Frederick May (String Quartet)

3.05 Visitors to the Proms. Chicago Symphony Orchestra under Daniel Barenboim performs Schoenberg (Five Orchestral Pieces, Op 16); Bruckner (Symphony No 8 in C minor)

5.00 Music Machine

5.15 In Tune Sean Rafferty talks to the pianist Paul Crossley, the conductor Takuo Yuasa and Jessica Brennan, administrator of BBC Young Musicians 1998. Includes Henry Cowell (Hymn and Fugue in Tune No 9); Dag Wiren (Serenade for Strings); Franck (Symphonic Variations)

7.30 Debussy — Painter of Dreams. Live from the Barbican Hall in London, the first of three concerts given by the London Symphony Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas, with Andrew Marriner, clarinet, John Harle, alto saxophone, Peter Mattei, baritone, and Tallis Chamber Choir. Debussy (Trois Nocturnes; Première Rapsodie for Clarinet and Orchestra; Rapsodie for Saxophone and Orchestra) **8.20** Interval **8.40** Concert Part 2. Debussy (Berceuse Heroique; Trois Ballades de François Villon; La Mer)

9.35 You Is What You Eats. Russell Davies mixes with Creole chefs and a fast-talking oyster shucker (4/5)

10.00 Music Restored. Andrew Manze introduces a studio recording by Musica ad Rhenum. Telemann (Sonata in G for two flutes, Op 2 No 2); Sybrandt van Noordt (Harpsichord Sonata, Op 1 No 4); Matteo Zocarini (Concertino No 3 in A for Cello and Continuo); Antoine Mahaut (Trio Sonata in C)

10.45 Night Waves. Patrick Wright explores the last 100 years in history, culture and politics

11.30 Composer of the Week: Schumann (r)

12.30am Jazz Notes, with Digby Fairweather

1.00 Through the Night, with John Shea

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW) **6.00** News **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, includes Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament

9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, with John Waite and his team of investigators (r)

9.30 The University. The mathematics department gets its sums wrong (7/7)

10.00 News; In the Balance (FM). A footballing comedy thriller by Mark Tavener. With Michael Williams

10.00 Daily Service (LW)

10.15 On This Day (LW)

10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni Murray

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent. Reports from BBC correspondents around the world

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Whittaker

12.25pm Double Vision. The comedy chat show with Miles Kington and Edward Enfield and guests Harry Enfield and Lady Margaret Oswick. Last in the series (r) **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; New Found Land: Demonology, by Kelly Stuart. With Michael McManus and Terri Hawkes. Followed at 2.30 by The Troll's Opinion, by Bruce Norris. With Frank Perry and Diego Matamoros

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Allen reviews David Hare's reworking of Chekhov's *Ivanov*

4.45 Short Story: The Train to Mariposa, by Stephen Leacock. Read by Angus Macinnes

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 Jeremy Hardy Speaks to the Nation, with Debbie Isitt and Gordon Kennedy

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Document. See Choice (3/6)

8.00 Analysis. John Ashworth examines whether we should subsidise university students less and use the savings to improve education for all

8.45 Stages of Redemption. The novelist and columnist Bryan Appleyard reflects on enduring themes drawn from the narrative of Christ's suffering (1/6)

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? The programme made for, and by, people with disabilities

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight (FM), with Robin Lustig

10.45 Book at Bedtime: House of Splendid Isolation (FM). Written and read by Edna O'Brien (9/10)

11.00 Pet Sematary, by Stephen King. With John Sharian, Briony Glassco and Lee Montague (1/6)

11.30 Close Ups (FM). Nigel Andrews talks to the Hollywood actor Rod Steiger (3/6) (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Regeneration (FM), by Pat Barker. Read by Alice Arnold (9/10)

12.48 Shipping Forecast

1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

Enter big Jonathan, the naked iconoclast

REVIEW

Peter Barnard

The choicest of the choices from last night's menu consisted of the start of a documentary series which is presented by the restaurant critic of *The Times* but is not about food, the end of a series about cooking, presented by a man who is much more than a chef, and the first part of a drama series by an established television writer who had not written for the BBC before.

Conventional wisdom would have it that I should be vicariously modest and underplay my colleague Jonathan Meades, that the last in any series ought to be relegated to two paragraphs and that the start of a six-part drama must be given half an acre of analysis at the very least. But you know me by now . . .

I hardly know Jonathan Meades but I have seen him naked. It happened during the opening credits of **Even Further Abroad** (BBC2). It was a mercifully brief glimpse, for Meades is very nearly as broad as he is long, but it set a sufficiently wacky tone for this, the successor to *Further Abroad*. As will be obvious from its title, *Even Further Abroad* is about Britain.

Meades writes about food, but he is also a dab hand with contextual architecture, which is to say buildings put in their proper, sociological, place. He regards the conventional wisdom (we have this much in common) with a deep scepticism, a rightful distaste. And like so many people whose smiling muscles get little exercise, he is wonderfully funny.

The purpose of *Even Further Abroad* is to inform us that, architecturally, Britain has a great future behind it, that the past's future was altogether more vivid and exciting and fresh than the future seen from the present. Meades hates the retro-puniness which is today's future, and to prove it he strides through one of those ghastly model villages trampling model people underfoot and setting fire to a model cottage by stubbing out a cigarette on its thatch.

I hope the Prince of Wales, if he was watching, did not switch off at that point but stayed tuned until Meades reached Poundbury, the twee little village near Dorchester which was decreed by HRH himself. As Meades said: "We honour the opinions, no matter how idle, no matter how boneheaded, of these accidents of birth . . . we are invited to advance timorously into the past. My only choice is to retreat into the future."

Meades prefers the 1960s-ish developments, the tower-block universities and the deliciously sinister golf-ball listening posts on the Yorkshire moors. He is, of course, selective, but I think he is saying that the response to a few errors in high-tech development should be refinement, not a return to some longed-for past lifted from a sepia print in granny's photo album.

The polemic is made all the more palatable by the pyrotechnics, or stunts if you insist, which include a "tonibenometer", named for Tony Benn's 1960s role as Technology Minister: a converted telephone with toy sensors which measure the appeal of techno-architecture (a television transmitter scores ten).

In contrast to all that, Rick Stein's **Fruits of the Sea** (BBC2) ended its run last night and I can only beg for an early repeat. Stein is the best of the telly chefs, which is not a judgment of his cooking ability but of his style and presentation. I am to some extent biased, for I was born in Cornwall and I am hopelessly enamoured of the sea, so a Padstow chef cooking fish can have his own channel in my house.

Still and all, Stein leaves most of his television rivals standing. *Food and Drink* has become truly horrible: dull, pretentious and rootedly middle-class, while Gary Rhodes is likeable but prone to *Blue Peter* mannerisms. Delia Smith, like all royalty, only moves her hands, but Stein is the one who inseparably links the food and its source, which is as it should be.

Last night Stein cooked for the Royal Navy at RNAS Culdrose and had to relaunch the meal because of a mix-up over clarified butter: a strength of the show is that errors get edited in, not out. He also cooked for his staff on the beach and in between launched a diatribe on behalf of fishermen, a breed disgracefully betrayed by political nincompoops.

So, two documentaries with plenty of drama. But where was the drama in the drama? **Insiders** (BBC1) is a six-parter about an open prison and is written by Lucy Gannon, whose ITV credits include *Peak Practice*, *Soldier, Soldier* and *Bramwell*: not a duffer among them. I am reluctant to dismiss a series on one episode, but *Insiders* took a long time to get going and when it did get going it did not go anywhere I cared about. That may change.

One problem last night had to do with a lack of focus. It was not clear whether we were supposed to home in on the prison, or on the relationships between the men on the inside and the people on the outside. Gannon has said that she intends to deal with both, an ambition that was clearer by the end than in the first 20 minutes.

The key figure in this episode was Mark Gordon (Bill Nighy), in prison for VAT fraud and just transferred from a closed prison. The tension between Gordon and Gerry Cosmo (Robert Cavanah), a prison officer who is coincidentally moved from the same open prison, is never quite developed to the point of ultimate confrontation, which tends to leave expectations unfulfilled.

Even when Gordon's wife has a fling with his former business partner, the kiss-and-make-up scene on the beach (this jail has its own beach, how open can you get?) arrives too quickly. Perhaps the sea is at fault: such a calming influence is more conducive to cooking fish than hatching plots.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (95407)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (83575)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (8539759)
9.20 Style Challenge (1269198)
9.45 Kilroy (6527662)
10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (35865)
11.00 News (T) and weather (6103865)
11.05 The Really Useful Show (3177914)
11.35 *Change That* (5088643)
12.00 *News* *(T) and weather* (6105391)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5798759)
12.30 Going for a Song (7072594)
12.55 The Weather Show (34189440)
1.00 News (T) and weather (86862)
1.30 Regional News (98013223)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (20682914)
2.05 Quincy (8987594)
2.50 Put It to the Test (5501020)
3.20 Miniature Worlds (2652597)
3.30 Playdays (r) (1491204) **3.50** Wham! Bam! Strawberry Jam! (7296198) **4.05** Casper Classics (2270136) **4.10** Rugrats (9595778) **4.35** The Really Wild Show (T) (6089372) **5.00** Newsround (T) (7946440) **5.10** Grange Hill (T) (1236914)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (723391)
6.00 News (T) and weather (643)
6.30 Newsroom South East (223)
7.00 Watchdog Consumer issues (T) (6310)
7.30 EastEnders Billy's latest adventure turns into a nightmare for Carol. Peggy hopes to mark the end of her long struggle with a family get-together, but Kathy is in no mood for celebrating, and Tony lands himself a new job (T) (407)
8.00 Wildlife on One An insight into the world of the sea turtles which live among the coral reefs off the coast of Borneo (T) (2730)
8.30 Next of Kin Maggie and Andrew discover Philip is being picked on at school and newly converted Buddhist Georgia decides to show the bully the error of his ways. Last in series (T) (1865)
9.00 News (T) and weather (1469)
9.30 Chalk New comedy series set in a modern comprehensive with David Bamber, Nicola Walker and Amanda Boxer (T) (66223)
10.00 Men Behaving Badly *(r) (T)* (27846)
10.30 The Frank Skinner Show Chat and stand-up comedy (T) (36594)
11.00 Question Time Topical debate from London, chaired by David Dimbleby with panelists Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, Labour's Chief Whip Donald Dewar, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead and the academic and novelist Germaine Greer (T) (708407)
11.35 The Mrs Merton Show The plain-speaking doyenne of talk show hosts is joined on the sofa by presenter Jonathan Ross and fashion supremo Jeff Banks (r) (T) (9160995)
12.05am FILM: The FBI Murders (1988) Tense real-life drama with David Soul and Michael Gross. Two deranged killers terrorise the citizens of Miami — and become prime targets of the FBI in the process. Directed by Dick Lowry (T) (9303808)
1.35-1.40 Weather (2995976)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

6.00am Open University: Questions about Behaviour (6493117) **6.25** Animal Behaviour (6405952) **6.50** Hearing the Call (5472198) **7.15** News (T) (6559204) **7.30** Captain Caveman and the Teen Angels (1465198) **7.55** *Blue Peter* (r) (T) (7052643) **8.20** Wishing (7421556) **8.35** The Record (9968575) **9.00** Science Collection (1270204) **9.25** Job Bank (8715198) **9.40** Megamaths (2037681) ***10.00*** *Playdays* (45827) ***10.30*** *Storytime* (6044597) **10.45** Teaching Today (600310) **11.15** In Living Memory (2100952) **11.35** Landmarks (T) (5095933) **11.55** Techno (1455827) **12.15pm** Quinze Minutes Plus (9222830) ***12.30*** *Working Lunch* (44001) ***1.00*** Lifeschool (24325339) **1.25** Isabel (15794198) **1.45** Numbertime (98090372) **2.00** Wishing (31764830) **2.10** Everyone's Got One (9995440) **3.00** News (T) **3.05** Westminster (T) (2393594) ***3.55*** *News* ***4.00*** *Today's the Day* (136) ***4.30*** *Ready, Steady, Cook* (420) ***5.00*** Esther (1488) **5.30** The Village (722662) **5.55** Turning Points (r) (477136)
6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (T) (568198)
6.45 Quantum Leap (r) (783730)
7.30 First Sight Thames Valley University's Vice-Chancellor Mike Fitzgerald faces students who fear that the egalitarian policy of higher education for all will devalue their degrees (579) **WALES:** Surely Some Mistake? **EAST:** Matter of Fact **MIDLANDS:** Midlands Report **NORTH/ NORTH EAST/NORTH WEST/SOUTH WEST/WEST:** Close Up **SOUTH:** Southern Eye
8.00 Surely Some Mistake? A four-part series in which people talk frankly about business and managerial misjudgments (T) (7152)
8.30 Top Gear Jeremy Clarkson test-drives a selection of sports cars (T) (9407) **WALES:** Out of Time
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Dick infiltrates Dr Albright's women's group — in drag (T) (960662)

Siamese twin Duan (9.25pm)

9.25 Horizon: Siamese Twins The first of a new series provides an update on the progress of Thai orphans Dao and Duan, Siamese twin sisters who survived an operation to separate them (T) (967407)
10.15 Before I Die A widower who is 81 and in pain from prostate and bone cancer wants the choice of euthanasia (349575)
10.28 Video Nation Shorts (888049)
10.30 *Newsnight* (T) (972353)
11.15 Late Review (396001) **11.55** Skiing Forecast (842020) **12.00** The Midnight Hour (25402)
12.30am Open University: Imagining New Worlds **1.00** Out of the Melting Pot **2.00** Newsfile **4.00** World Spanish **5.00** *Business and Work*

CHOICE

Wildlife On One: Reef Encounter
BBC1, 8.00pm

Bringing back footage of astonishing clarity, cameras cruise a coral reef in the South Pacific. The focus is partly on the plants, corals, sharks and other longstanding members of the oldest reef community in the world, a delicately balanced system which has evolved over millions of years. But the lens is also trained on a notable gatecrasher, though not a very recent one. Turtles first invaded the coral seas in the age of the dinosaurs. But they are only temporary visitors, as they have to come to the surface for air. They must also leave the water to lay their eggs. Sometimes they get lost in underwater caves. The saddest images are of skeletons of turtles who never made it. Otherwise this is an upbeat tale, free of the violence of so many wildlife documentaries.

Surely Some Mistake
BBC2, 8.00pm (Wales, 7.30pm; not Northern Ireland or Scotland)

This anthology of great marketing blunders comes from BBC Education, but it could have been made by the comedy department. It is to the credit of the red-faced victims that they are willing to come before the cameras and relive their embarrassment. First off is Sir Stephen Roberts, begetter of Lymeswold cheese. What with top billing on the main BBC news, this would-be delicacy could not have got off to a better start. But the publicity blitz meant nothing in the face of customer resistance. We then hear from Harry Coen, who as acting editor of *The Catholic Herald* found himself vilified for printing an attack on the newly deceased Archbishop Warlock. He, too, had misjudged his market. Bryan Ellis, a toy company executive, got it hopelessly wrong when he turned down the Ninja Turtles. At least he can laugh about it.

Horizon: Siamese Twins
BBC2, 9.25pm

Jon Palfreman brings up to date his award-winning documentary about Dao and Duan, the Siamese twins who travel from their native Thailand to the United States for separation surgery. Approaching the age of three, they are among the oldest twins to be separated but they are in the best possible hands. Dr John O'Neill of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia is a world expert on conjoined twins and the hospital has done 18 separations. But, and this is the crux of Palfreman's film, Dao and Duan are a particularly difficult challenge. They share the pelvis and a third leg, their spines and colons are fused and each has only one kidney. The 14-hour operation, shown in intimate close-up, is a triumph of medical skill but there could still be psychological barriers to overcome.

Chalk
BBC1, 9.30pm

Steven Moffatt's new comedy seems bent on doing for schools what *Fawlty Towers* did for the hotel business. The first episode even borrows a famous *Fawlty Towers* plot, the one about the dead body that inconveniently refuses to go away. The Basil role goes to David Bamber as the apoplectic deputy headmaster of an 809-strong comprehensive (820 if you count the pregnancies). As in *Fawlty Towers* the dominant mode is farce, which means lots of rushing about, mistaken identities and the headmaster (John Wells) getting himself locked in a cupboard. A forthright new teacher (Nicola Walker) provides the only strain of normality. In comparison with the John Cleese-Connie Booth masterpiece, *Chalk* inevitably comes off second best but a lively cast and Moffatt's sometimes grisly sense of fun are assets that should appreciate. **Peter Waymark**

6.00am GMTV (1173827)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (1277117)
9.55 Regional News (T) (5245681)
10.00 The Time, the Place (65681)
10.30 This Morning (T) (33598440)
12.20pm Regional News (T) (6101575)
12.30 *News* *(T) and weather* (7067662)
12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (34115865) **12.55** Shortland Street (7075681) **1.25** Home and Away (T) (15705204) **1.50** Afternoon Live (20697846) **2.20** Vanessa (T) (30596846) **2.50** Afternoon Live (5503488)
3.20 News (T) (8052533)
3.25 Regional News (T) (9402074)
3.30 The Riddlers (7210778) **3.40** Wizadora (r) (9994440) **3.50** Gogglewatch: Gags of Goggles (T) (9923952) ***4.00*** *Scratchy and Reg's House of Hilarity* (9593310) **4.20** Gogglewatch: Gags of Goggles (T) (1290846) **4.40** Sticky (2716933) **4.55** Gogglewatch: Gags of Goggles (T) (3817001)
5.10 A Country Practice (7553117)
5.40 News (T) and weather (241372)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (740594)
6.25 HTV Weather (626575)
6.30 HTV News (T) (391)

Johnny Leeze stars (7.00pm)

7.00 Emmerdale Ned Glover (Johnny Leeze) is gunning for Chris Tate (Peter Amory) (T) (7533)
8.00 The Bill Boulton tries to score points by trapping a roomful of crooks (T) (4198)
8.30 Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich game show (T) (6933)
9.00 Reckless Owen is delighted when Anna begins divorce proceedings against Richard, but he comes down to earth when it becomes clear she is only interested in using him to get back at her wayward husband. Humiliated, he resigns from the hospital and prepares to leave Manchester for good — but soon discovers Cupid works in mysterious ways (T) (6407)
10.00 News (T) and weather (12914)
10.30 Regional News (T) (452001)
10.40 The West This Week (172551)
11.25 Frieze Frame New series (365136)
11.40 FILM: Empire City (1991) with Michael Pare, Mary Mara and Beau Starr. Contemporay film noir about an unorthodox, streetwise detective is paired by a new female company to investigate a murder. Directed by Mark Rosner (218469)
1.05 In Bed with MeDinner (8209889)
1.35 Funny Business (1439095)
2.05 Cyber Cafe (8075353) **2.35** Late and Loud (8157599) **3.35** Stand and Deliver (r) (2318266) ***4.30*** *The Time, the Place* (r) (84228) **5.00** The New Mr and Mrs Show (r) (53860) **5.30** News (20957)

As HTV West except:
12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (7075681)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7553117)
6.25 Central News (725285)
6.55-7.00 Lifeline (671285)
10.40 Do I Not Like That! (543662)
11.40 Bagdad Cafe (580020)
12.10am Beyond Reality (1376599)
12.40 Funny Business (5039402)
1.15 Ed's Night Party (5926711)
1.40 Club Nation (6639976)
2.40 Shift (9111044)
3.35 Planet Rock Profiles (60936995)
4.00 Cool Vibes (42345624)
4.05 Central Jobfinder '97 (4844402)
5.20 Asian Eye (2434711)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (6101575)
12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (7075681)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7553117)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (56846)
10.30 Westcountry News (476681)
10.45 Special Report (499391)
11.15 Tales from the Cider County (496204)
11.45 Traps (752643)
12.40am-1.05 Alfred Hitchcock Presents (8345841)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
5.10pm-5.40 Home and Away (7553117)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (339)
6.30-7.00 Getaways (391)
10.40 FILM: Midnight Express (1978) The story of a young American who faces a brutal stay in a Turkish jail (47028662)
5.00am Freescreen (53860)

ANGLIA

As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (6113310)
12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (7075681)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7553117)
6.25 Anglia News (725285)
6.55-7.00 What's On (671285)
10.30 Anglia News and Weather (476681)
10.45 Cover Story (499391)
11.15 Crime Special Update (496204)
11.45 Hunter (752643)
12.40am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (8345841)

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Sesame Street (88117) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (76285) **9.00 Bewitched** (22391) **9.30 Hangin' with Mr Cooper** (2998933) **9.55 Crystal Maze** (9035759) **10.55 Back to the Future** (4186730) **11.20 The Adventures of Tintin** (2183285) **11.45 Rocko's Modern Life** (1460759) **12.00pm House to House** (19827) **12.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (46469) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (79372) **1.30 Collectors' Lot** (38440) **2.00 Racing** from Wincanton and Huntingdon (6020) ***4.00 Fifteen-to-One*** *(204)* **4.30 Howard Goodall's Organ Works** (488) **5.00 5 Pump** (6556) **5.30 Countdown** (440) **6.00 Newyddion** (364223) **6.05 Heno** (728372) **6.35 Jacpot** (633865) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (838643) **7.25 Pwy 'Di Pwy?** (196440) **8.00 Pam Fi Duw?** *(5440)* ***8.30 Newyddion*** *(4575)* ***9.00 A55*** *(4049)* **10.00 FILM: Wish You Were Here** (661223) **11.40 Dispatches** (942339) **12.25am FILM: In the Eyes of a Stranger** (222841)

6.00am Sesame Street (88117) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (76285) **9.00** Bewitched (r) (22391) **9.30** Hangin' with Mr Cooper (r) (T) (2998933) ***9.55*** *The Crystal Maze* (r) (9035759) **10.55** Back to the Future (r) (4186730) **11.20** Tintin (r) (2183285) **11.45** Rocko's Modern Life (1460759) **12.00** House to House (19827) **12.30pm** Here's One I Made Earlier (r) (46469) **1.00** Cybill (r) (T) (79372) **1.30** *Australia Wild* (38440)
2.00 Racing from Wincanton and Huntingdon Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the **2.05, 2.35, 3.05** and **3.35** races from Wincanton and the **2.50,** and **3.20** races from Huntingdon (6020)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (204) **4.30** Countdown (T) (488) ***5.00*** *Ricki Lake* (T) (6556) ***5.30*** *Pet Rescue* (T) (440)
6.00 New Gamesmaster *Guide to the latest computer and arcade games* (T) (681)
6.30 Hollyoaks Teen soap (T) (933)
7.00 Channel 4 News *(T) and weather* (595662)
7.50 The People's Agenda (520372)
8.00 An Inspector Calls: Kitchen Raids The work of food inspectors in Newcastle Last in the series (r) (T) (5440)

Cooking in a tepee (8.30pm)

8.30 TV Dinners (7/9) Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall continues his foray through the world of energetic amateur cooks. Tonight he joins Penny Sinclair as she prepares an exotic menu of Japanese, Chinese and Uzbekistani dishes, while *Sam Thornley dishes up a Zen feast in his tepee* in the Scottish wilderness to celebrate his first year of living off the land (T) (4575)
9.00 Dispatches A look at the extent of dissent and unrest in Saudi Arabia (959488)
9.45 The Long Johns Sir George Parr is interviewed on the subject of becoming a tax exile. With John Bird and John *Fortune* (T) (389933)
10.00 FILM: Blonde Fist (1990) with Margi Clarke and Carroll Baker. Comedy drama about a boxer's daughter struggling to make a life for herself and her young child on Merseyside. Directed by Frank Clarke (T) (135223)
11.55 The Unpleasant World of Penn and Teller Macabre magic (884846)
12.25am Dead or Alive A *Secret History* documentary that uncovers new evidence about the 2,000 Cypriots who disappeared after the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey (r) (T) (4965082)
1.25 Nothing But the Truth Paul Boateng presides over a discussion (r) (2641808)
2.30 Nomads (2/4) Exploration of Inner Mongolia through the lives of two families (r) (T) (84112)
3.30 Schools (201686)
5.20 Backdate (3026570)

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday**

SKY 1

6.00am Morning Glory (882285) **9.00** Regis and Kathie Lee (65778) **10.00** Another World (17556) **11.00** *Days of Our Lives* (38920) **12.00** Oprah Winfrey (70440) 1[illegible] Geraldo (96488) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (93488) **3.00** *Jenny Jones* (96914) **4.00** Oprah Winfrey (15049) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (7827) **6.00** Real TV (3117) **6.30** Married — with Children (4469) **7.00** *The Simpsons* (8556) **7.30** M*A*S*H (6681) **8.00** Just Kidding (7204) **8.30** The Nanny (6339) **9.00** Seinfeld (23943) **9.30** *Mad About You* (88469) ***10.00*** *Chicago Hope* (41952) **11.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (18285) **12.00** LAPD (65044) **12.30am** The Lucy Show (42605) **1.00** Hit Mix (8963624)

SKY 2

7.00pm Hercules (5498852) **8.00** Sliders (5472372) **9.00** Highlander (5492136) ***10.00*** *Tek War* (5495223) **11.00** Late Show (5754020) **12.00** Hit Mix (7258247)

SKY NEWS

Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Roller Boogie (1979) (82594) **8.00 Between Love and Honour** (1994) (77440) **10.00 Kidco** *(1984) (32109)* **12.00 Running Free** *(1994)* (90391) **2.00pm Weekend at Bernie's II** (1993) (32204) **4.00 MacShayne: Final Roll of the Dice** (1993) (2759) **6.00 Airborne** (1993) (31467049) **7.40** US Top 10 (615020) **8.00 Hercules in the Underworld** (1994) (24265) **10.00 Tank Girl** (1995) (816596) ***11.45 Mad Dogs and Englishmen*** **(1995)** ([illegible]) **1.25am The Alf Garnett Saga** (1972) (1027955) **2.55 The Unspoken Truth** (1995) (6751570) ***4.25 MacShayne: Final Roll of the Dice*** *(1993) (415112)*

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am When Willie Comes Marching Home (1950) (58469) ***7.30 Charles Dickens' Ghost Stories: From the Pickwick Papers*** **(1987)** (51556) **8.30 Willy Fog: Journey to the Centre of the Earth** (1994) (47469) **10.00 The Roots of Heaven** (1958) (77968848) **12.10pm The Fantasy Worlds of Irwin Allen** (1996) (474827) **2.00 Born to Be Wild** (1995) (30846) **4.00 Time Warrior: Eggs from 70 Million BC** (1995) (3001) **6.00 The Big Game** (1995) (43310) **8.00 Fluke** (1995) (42339) **9.30 The Movie Show** (10987) **10.00 Color of Night** (1994) (83681204) **12.05am The Red Shoe Diaries No.11: The Game** (1995) (3850699) **1.25 No-One Could Protect Her** (1995) (394353) **3.00 Isle of the Dead** *(1945)* (1065782) ***4.15*** **Bedlam** (1946) (916268)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm My Favourite Spy (1951) (8179198) **8.00 Doctor Detroit** (1983) (8174643) **10.00 Commando** (1985) (7300730) **11.35 A Nightmare on Elm Street III: Dream Warriors** (1987) (3874001) **1.15am The Panic in Needle Park** (1971) (7658421) **3.05-5.05 Captains Courageous** (1937) (5784173)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT

Continuous cartoons from 5am to 9pm, then TNT films as follows.
9.00pm Where Eagles Dare (1968) (35655643) **11.45 An American in Paris** (1951) (29360204) **1.20am A Stranger Is Watching** (1982) (55058773) ***2.55-5.00 The Bodysnatchers*** *(1969)* (75339841)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over at 10pm.
6.00am Big Garage (8172339) **6.15** *Muppet Babies* (9922285) **6.40** The Care Bears (3399594) **7.05** Enchanted Tales (1325391) **7.55** The Little Mermaid (2235846) ***8.20*** *Aladdin* (6743223) **8.45** Quack Pack (4379914) **9.10** New Doug (6239865) **9.35** Mighty Ducks (4602662) **10.00** Goof Troop (2958575) **10.25** Darkwing Duck (6515952) **10.50** Timon and Pumbaa (8163933) **11.15** Bonkers (591223) **11.45** Quack Attack (7314338) **12.10pm** Mouse Tracks (7220594) **12.35** The Little Mermaid (4634914) **1.00** Flipper (8295952) **1.45** Timon and Pumbaa (94834469) **2.00** FILM: Tron (90285) **3.30** Bonkers (4979223) **3.40** Bonkers (1700594) ***4.05*** *Goof Troop* (8664662) **4.30** Quack Pack (6040) **5.00** Aladdin (9329914) **5.20** Flash Foward (6206049) **5.45** Timon and Pumbaa (722925) ***6.00*** *Bone Chillers* (1933) **6.30** Boy Meets World (2285) **7.00** Dave's World (6372) **7.30** FILM: Double Agent (58846) **9.00** Tarzan (82759) **9.30-10.00** Golden Girls (41575)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Ghosts (7320001) **6.30** *Inspector Gadget* (9783681) **7.00** Samurai Pizza Cats (5745372) **7.30** Eagle Riders (5764407) **8.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (5432662) **8.30** Masked Rider (5431933) **9.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (5422285) **9.30** Power Rangers Zeo (9700846) ***10.00*** *Casper* (9754933) **10.30** Ace Ventura (5428469) **11.00** Life with Louie (4931204) **11.30** Eek-Stravaganza (4932953) **12.00** Skysurfer Strikeforce (5442049) **12.30pm** Extreme Heroes (9704682) **1.00** Highlander (5744643) **1.30** Eagle Riders (9703933) **2.00** Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (5925662) **2.30** Masked Rider (3029865) **3.00** Big Bad Beetleborgs (5911469) ***3.30*** *Power Rangers Zeo* (3024310) **4.00** Mortal Kombat (5915285) **6.00** Goosebumps (3020594) **6.30-7.00** Sweet Valley High (3011846)

SKY SPORTS 1

9.30am Racing News (94643) **10.00** Golf Extra (37681) **11.30** Arsenal v Manchester United (r) (96317) ***1.00pm*** *South African PGA Championship* — Live (914223) **4.00** Grass Roots Rugby (1914) **4.30** Rebel Sports (7198) **4.50** Sports Centre (6926310) ***5.00*** *Wrestling: Superstars* (5001) **6.00** Sports Centre (1391) **6.30** Tight Lines (10575) **7.30** Cricket: New Zealand v England Day (227049) ***10.00*** *Sports Centre* (79846) **10.30** Netbusters (89594) **11.00** South African PGA Championship (69778) **1.00am** Sports Centre (53995) **1.30** Tight Lines (80860) **2.30** Netbusters (17266) **3.00-3.30** Sports Centre (33131)

SKY SPORTS 2

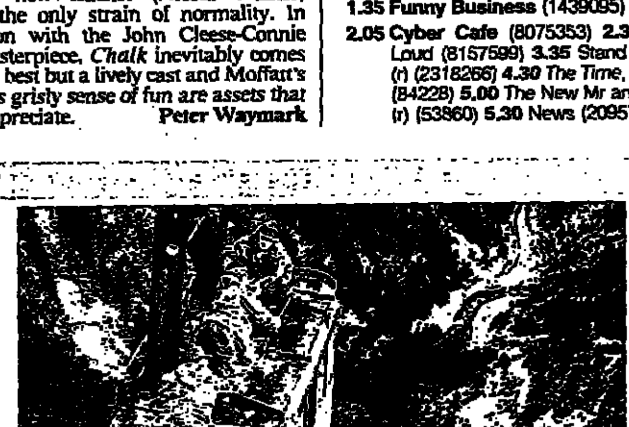
8.00pm Snooker: International Open — Live (6772694) ***11.00*** *Football Scrapbook* (4560310) **12.30am-1.00** Hall of Fame

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Snooker: International Open — Live (65926952) **5.00pm** *Inside the PGA Tour* (86632778) **5.30** South African PGA Championship (87265097) **7.30** Sports Centre (21023662) **8.00** Football League Review (26587759) ***9.00*** *US Golf Tuscon Classic* — Live (28580846) **11.00-11.30** Waterski Tour (85289952)

EUROSPORT

7.30am *Moscow IAAF Indoor Meeting* (11952) **9.00** Motors (81730) **10.00** Ski-Jumping: World Cup (57198) **11.00** Cross-Country Skiing (49961) **12.30pm** Freestyle Skiing (83643) ***1.30*** *Snowboarding* (89198) **2.00** Tennis: EC Championship — Live (910407) **5.00** Tennis: Hannover WTA Tournament (7469) **6.00** Sumo (60466) ***7.00*** *Tennis: EC Championship* — Live (52643) **9.00** Boxing: Great Western Forum (84827) **10.00** Athletics: DN Games (87914) **11.00-12.30** Tennis (67407)



Richard Burton, Clint Eastwood in *Where Eagles Dare* (TNT, 9pm)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am The Krypton Factor (6823402) **6.30** Once Upon a Time (80512136) **6.45** Our Backyard (41457914) **7.00** Alphabet Zoo (7827198) **7.15** Once Upon a Time (4871682) **7.30** The Return of the Antelope (3861643) **8.00** Classic Coronation Street (2578759) **8.30** Families (2568730) **9.00** The Professionals (2528010) **10.00** Second Thoughts (8552730) ***10.30*** *Two's Company* (2568594) **11.00** Within These Walls (3870391) **12.00** Classic Coronation Street (2579846) **12.30pm** Families (1317579) **1.00** Albion Market (3881407) **1.30** The Krypton Factor (6262420) **2.00** Drummonds (3560759) **3.00** Sherlock Holmes (2911048) **4.00** The Doctor Series (6068952) **4.30** Second Thoughts (8065136) **5.00** The Professionals (3752117) **6.00** Classic Coronation Street (6046001) **6.30** Families (6060681) **7.00** The Doctor Series (3753846) ***7.30*** *Two's Company* (8056865) **8.00** Sherlock Holmes (1651488) **9.00** Classic Coronation Street (5557310) **9.35** *The Good Life Guide* (4968662) ***10.00-11.00*** *The Professionals* (1874339)
From 11.00pm-2.00am Men and Motors

GRANADA GOOD LIFE

From **6.00am-9.00** *TV High Street*
From **9.00-12.00** *Food and Wine*
From **12.00-3.00pm** Health and Beauty
From **3.00-6.00** Home and Garden

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm *Biography: Buster Keaton* (3698407) **5.00** History Alive (4417020) **6.00** Our Century (3153681) **7.00-8.00** Biography: Hitler (1231556)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

1.00am The Twilight Zone (6974570) **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected (2801402) **2.00** 100 Years of Horror (9194792) ***2.30*** *Night Gallery* (9180599) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th

TLC/DISCOVERY

9.00am The Joy of Painting (2898310) **9.30** Grow Your Own (6953925) **10.00** Surprise Chefs (7939407) **10.30** Our House (2894594) **11.00** The Painted House (7096827) **11.30** This Old House (7097556) **12.00** Simply Delicious Meals (2885846) **12.30pm** Graham Kerr (2353961) **1.00** *Today's Gourmet* (1428469) **1.30** *Home Again* (3703402) **2.00** Hometime (5791730) **2.30** Furniture to Go (2602662) **3.00** Two's *Country* (5710865) **3.30** This Old House
DISCOVERY takes over at 4.00pm.
4.00pm Fishing Adventures II (2693914) ***4.30*** *Bush Tucker Man* (2699198) **5.00** Connections 2 (5715310) **5.30** Beyond 2000 (2613778) **6.00** Wild Things (7408010) ***7.00*** *Beyond 2000* (5702846) ***7.30*** *Mysterious Forces* (2690827) **8.00** Professionals (8526989) **9.00** Top Marques II (7009391) **9.30** *Disaster* (2258317) **10.00** Medical Detectives (2886575) **11.00** Classic Wheels (1438846) **12.00** Science Frontiers (9709315) **1.00am** *Roadshow* (5427179) **1.30-2.00** World of Adventures (4511112)

UK GOLD

7.00am Tellystack (7768682) **7.35** Neighbours (3349407) **8.00** Crossroads (9488020) **8.25** EastEnders (1984466) **9.00** The Bill (2867440) **9.30** The Boswells (4153943) ***10.00*** *Never the Twain* (7931865) **10.30** The Sullivans (2896952) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (1459339) **12.00** Crossroads (2897204) **12.30pm** Neighbours (6058579) **1.00** EastEnders (9878136) **1.35** No Place Like Home (5087827) **2.10** A Little Bit of Emery (61950556) **2.20** Three Up, Two Down (5568556) **3.00** Tellystack (5712223) **3.30** The Bill (2616865) **4.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7012865) **5.00** Bob's Full House (5143662) **5.40** Crossroads (6863285) ***6.05*** *EastEnders* (3054049) **6.40** Generation Game (61566865) **7.50** Are You Being Served? (8819469) **8.30** Russ Abbot (5709759) **9.00** The Bill (7018049) **9.30** The *Equalizer* (8766407) **10.30** Rowland Rivron (9058952) **11.05** Men Behaving Badly (9776339) **11.40** Alexei Sayle (1835488) **12.15am** The Best of Top of the Pops (3202773) **1.00** Miami Vice (9983082) **1.50** Shopping at Night (58343711)

TCC

6.00am Halfway Across the Galaxy and *Turn Left* (23730) **6.30** Ocean Odyssey (51049) **7.00** Escape from Jupiter (82407) **7.30** Flash Gordon (61914) **8.00** Batman (88876) **8.30** Dennis the Menace (38317) **9.00** Earthworm Jim (27407) **9.30** Bobby's World (30469) **10.00** Romuald the Reindeer (35001) **10.30** Iznogoud (16391) **11.00** Danger Mouse (75469) **11.30** Gravedale High (76198) **12.00** Oscar's Orchestra (38353) **12.30pm** Art Attack (34265) **1.00** Ann of Green Gables (22440) **2.00** Ocean Odyssey (8730) **2.30** Escape from Jupiter (3778) **3.00** Batman (7865) **3.30** Flash Gordon (8223) **4.00** Earthworm Jim (7730) **4.30-5.00** Dennis the Menace (3914)

NICKELODEON

6.00am *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles* (85556) **6.30** Biker Mice from Mars (47223) **7.00** Captain Simian and the Space Monkeys (78681) **7.30** Tales from the Cryptkeeper (64488) **8.00** Bruno the Kid (66372) **8.30** Hey Arnold! (65643) **9.00** *Rugrats* (89223) **9.30** Rugrats (92285) **10.00** Aaahh! Real Monsters (38575) **10.30** Doug (85407) **11.00** Rocko's Modern Life (53223) **11.30** Bailey Kipper (54952) **12.00** Kenan and Kel (76759) **12.30pm** The Secret World of Alex Mack (96001) **1.00** *Sister Sister* (77952) **1.30** Moesha (85372) **2.00** The Ferals (4876) **2.30** Wishbone (8204) **3.00** Stickin' Around (2391) **3.30** *Aaahh! Real Monsters* (3579) ***4.00*** *Bruno the Kid* (8556) **4.30** Bruno the Kid (8440) **5.00** Bruno the Kid (4136) **5.30** Bruno the Kid (2020) **6.00** Press Gang (9933) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (3335)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Entertainment UK (4372) **7.30** *Roseanne* (6469) ***8.00*** *Roseanne* (3020) **8.30** Monty Python (9827) **9.00** Cheers (40759) **9.30** Taxi (16865) **10.00** Garry Shandling (77488) **10.30** Frasier (86136) ***11.00*** *The Doctor Is On* (45204) **11.30** Monty Python (34759) **12.00** The Critic (94570) **12.30am** Soap (88421) **1.00** Cheers (51537) **1.30** Taxi (67686) **2.00** *Entertainment UK* (96773) **2.30** The Doctor Is On (15808) **3.00** Frasier (31773) **3.30-4.00** Garry Shandling (99860)

BRAVO

8.00pm Robocop (8421335) ***9.00*** *The New Twilight Zone* (7003117) **9.30** The New Twilight Zone (8858551) **10.00** Tour of Duty (1871056) **11.00 FILM: La Balance** *(4551730)* ***1.00am*** *Robocop* (6447006) **2.00** Tour of Duty (6730082) **3.00 FILM: La Balance** (2758605) **5.00** the New Twilight Zone (9712989)

UK LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living (8942488) **9.00** Gladrags and Glamour (2975933) **9.10** Gabrielle (1350198) **10.05** Jerry Springer (3904285) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (5014020) **11.50** Brookside (2731865) **12.25pm** *A Day in the Life Of* (54753391) **12.55** Tempest (1913339) **1.45** Gordon Elliott (6675488) **2.30** The Heat Is On (4247204) **3.00** Take a Letter (7793681) **3.30** Talkabout (4773469) **4.05** Jerry Springer (9633989) **5.05** Lingo (66057001) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (4241020) **6.00** I Dream of Jeannie (8636759) **6.35** Ready, Steady, Cook (1637556) **7.05** Brookside (1704117) **7.40** Who's Sorry Now? (2113575) **8.05** Rolonda (4098136) **9.00 FILM: Not My Kid** (8171556) **11.00-12.00** Sex Life Down Under (8993907)

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Prize Time (6841285) **5.05** Blockbusters (1122952) **5.35** Prize Time (796372) **5.50** Spellbound (609372) **6.20** Prize Time (245759) **6.30** Catchphrase (522310) **6.55** Prize Time (125556) **7.05** *Sale of the Century* (673778) **7.30** Prize Time (164865) **7.40** Gives Us a Clue (477681) **8.10** Prize Time (322952) **8.20** All *Clued Up* (502001) **8.50** *Prize Time* (335952) **9.00** Through the Keyhole (850846) **9.25** Prize Time (204643) **9.35** *Busman's Holiday* (745575) ***10.00*** *Prize Time* (326759) **10.05** Treasure Hunt (203372) **11.05** Prize Time (224440) **11.20** Love at First Sight (779448) **11.45** Prize *Time* (118440) ***12.00*** *Sale of the Century* (49044) **12.30am** Hart to Hart (76501) **1.30** Lou Grant (33976) **2.30** Snowy River (96518) **3.30** *All Together Now* (37044) **4.00-5.00** The Fall Guy (43841)

ZEE TV

7.00am Jaagran **7.30** News **8.00** Gaane Anjaane **8.30** Pakistan Business Update **9.00** Hasya Tera Ghar Vasya **9.30** Euro Zindagi **10.00** Saheel **11.00** Chakravyuh **11.30** Banegi Apni Baat **12.00** Dastaan **12.30pm** Love Stories **1.00 FILM: Jaan Pe Khel Kar** **4.00** ZEE Top 10 **5.00** ZEE Zone **5.30** Vikram Aur Beetal **6.00** Yoodle Ae Oo **6.30** ZEE and You **7.00** Ten Bhi Chup Meri Bhi Chup **7.30** *Cinemagic* **8.00** News **8.30** Andaz **9.00** Joal **9.30** Hasratain **10.00** Commander **10.30** Song Yaatra **11.00** Zee Horror Show **11.30-12.00** Aap Ki Farmaish

MTV

The 24 hour music channel. Includes news, reviews and live concert footage

VH-1

The video hits channel. *Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds*

هكذا من الاصل

هكذا من الاصل

RACING 43
McCoy back to winning ways at Folkestone

SPORT

CRICKET 44
England looking to strike hard in grand finale

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 1997

World record fee secures move

Newcastle have to dig deep for Tuigamala

By Mark Souster

VA'AIGA TUIGAMALA yesterday signed a five-year contract to play *rugby union for* Newcastle and, in so doing, *helped the sporting* club on Tyneside that is bankrolled by Sir *John* Hall *to break a world* transfer fee record for the *second time in seven months.*

Last July, Newcastle United Football Club paid £15 million to secure the services of Alan Shearer. Yesterday, the Courage Clubs Championship second division rugby union club, the fledgeling arm of Sir John's empire, showed that it, too, means business with a deal that comfortably exceeds £1 million.

By turning his back on rugby league, Tuigamala, the former All Black, becomes the most expensive player in union history as part of a package which dwarfs the fees paid by Swansea and Richmond for Scott Gibbs and Scott Quinnell respectively.

Tuigamala, 28, has ended a three-year association with Wigan, for whom he played 99 times and scored 60 tries. His winter sojourn at Wasps whetted his appetite for the union game and that, combined with Wigan's financial situation and Newcastle's muscle, meant that a move was inevitable. Wigan will receive an estimated £500,000 while Tuigamala will earn at least £150,000 a year. Newcastle *will repay a £180,000 loyalty* bonus to the Super League on *his behalf.*

The mood at Newcastle was *upbeat as* Tuigamala *completed* his move, the glint in Sir *John's eye unmistakable.* Having been delayed at a Bank of England board meeting earlier in the day, he was soon *into his stride,* first enthusing about his plans to make Newcastle the dominant club force in Europe and then taking a swipe at the Rugby Football Union for questioning his resolve, commitment and motives.

Beside him, Tuigamala, a Western Samoan noted for his Christian beliefs, sat beaming. He was more circumspect, speaking only of his delight at signing and his intention to help to spread the "gospel of *rugby" to the North East.* "The whole package is attractive, *not just for me but also my* family," Tuigamala said. He *becomes the fifteenth* international recruited by Rob Andrew, *the Newcastle director* of rugby, whose revolution has so far cost more than £3 million.

"As a Christian there is a real fellowship here and I thank God for guiding me," Tuigamala said. "I've always been an ambitious person and set my own goals and standards. Newcastle are going places and that is something I have always thrived on."

Asked if he agreed with the suggestion that his best years were behind him, Tuigamala said: "I'm not at my prime — I think I'm just starting to crawl. I feel I have a lot to offer on and off the field. I have always been fortunate that I have had a talent which I am very proud of and a reputation that I have got to uphold. Wigan enhanced that, but Newcastle will allow me the chance to express myself."

Andrew denied that he had taken a gamble and hinted that more signings were likely. "We have signed one of the world's rugby stars both on and off the field," he said. "His personality will help to promote the game in the North East. We are determined to build a strong squad which can compete."

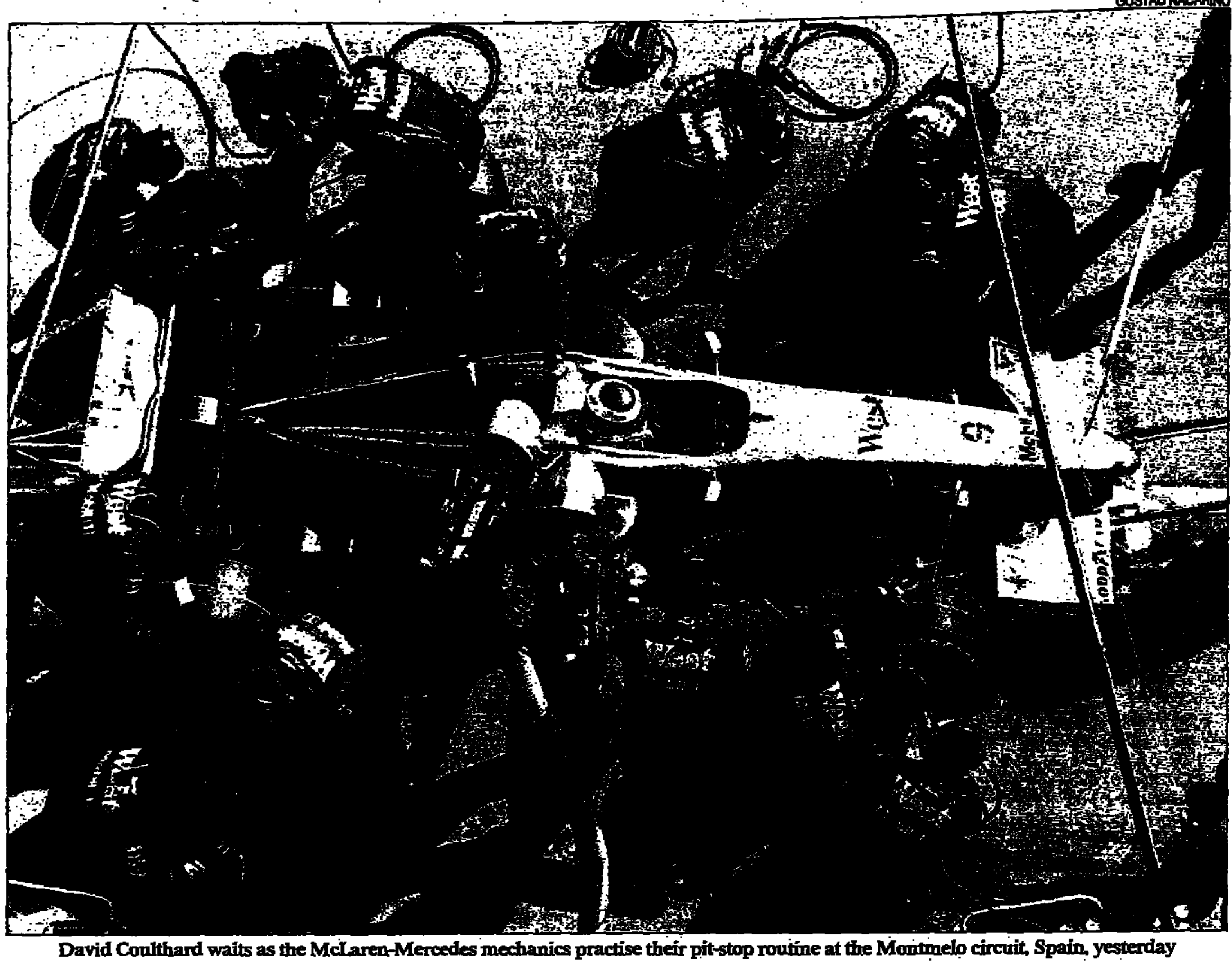
Sir John believes that the creation of a transfer market will benefit rugby union as a whole, not just Newcastle. "We are all in competition," he said. "Each club, each investor, will decide what he can afford. That's the marketplace. Rugby union has a tremendous future, that is why we are in it. By developing clubs we are helping to develop the English team."

Tuigamala, who joins Pat Lam, his compatriot and international captain, at Kingston Park, is not eligible for Newcastle's Pilkington Cup tie against Leicester on Saturday. He is expected to make his debut against Wakefield on March 8.

FACTFILE

1969: Born, Faleasiu, Western Samoa, September 4.
1973: Moves to New Zealand.
1988: Plays for New Zealand Colts
1989: Plays for New Zealand against British Columbia in Vancouver
1991: International debut against United States during World Cup.
1993: Collects the last of his 19 caps against England at Twickenham.
1994: Joins Wigan on January 8
1995: Plays in both Western Samoa matches in the rugby league World Cup.
1996: Signs four-month contract with Wasps and plays rugby union for Western Samoa against Ireland.
1997: Returns to Wigan then signs for Newcastle for £500,000

GUSTAU NACARINO



David Coulthard waits as the McLaren-Mercedes mechanics practise their pit-stop routine at the Montmelo circuit, Spain, yesterday

Hill must appear as a prosecution witness in Imola

Williams case casts pall over Formula One testing

By Oliver Holt

DAMON HILL, the Formula One world champion, was testing his new Arrows-Yamaha at Silverstone yesterday, but, like the rest of the sport, his mind was far away at another circuit. The trial of members of the Williams team that Hill used to drive for, for the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna, begins in Imola today and Hill was preoccupied with its ramifications.

Because of a quirk of Italian law, *Hill* will appear as a witness for the prosecution, even though he was a team-mate of Senna, the Brazilian three-times world champion, when he was killed in a crash at the Tamburello corner during the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix. *Hill* was originally called to appear at the trial today, but has now been told that it will be in the spring.

"*It is* a very unpleasant sort of thing to have to go through," Hill said. "It was traumatic enough going through it the first time, when Ayrton died, and to have to experience it all again is not really what you need.

"It is not something you want to dwell on too much, but lessons have to be learnt and, since Ayrton's death, a lot of things have changed in Formula One and it is a lot safer. His crash highlighted the fact that we have got a responsibility to provide entertainment to the public and not just a macabre spectacle."

The opening of the trial today is likely to be dominated by procedural detail with none of the protagonists present. Frank Williams, the Williams team owner, Patrick Head, the technical director, and Adrian Newey, the chief designer, the three accused from the Williams team, were also initially scheduled to appear today, but the Italian courts decided that it was in everybody's interest to avoid a media mêlée and they, along with three race officials who are facing the same charge, will all appear within the next three months.

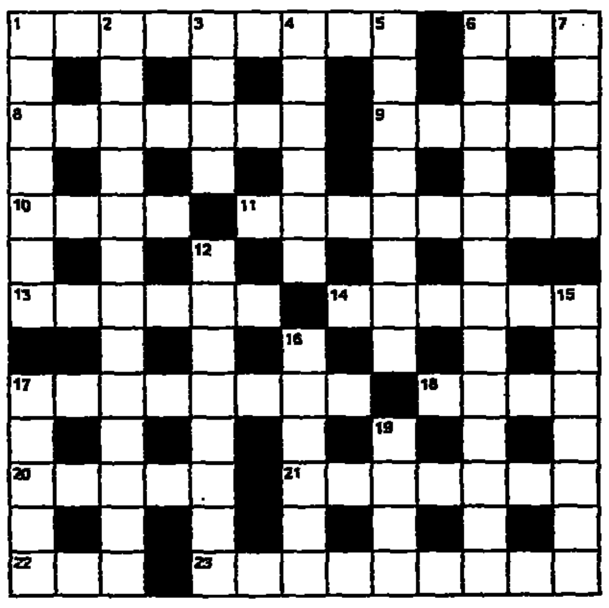
Prosecutors at the trial will argue that the steering column on Senna's car snapped as a result of a poor weld as he turned into the Tamburello curve at Imola. Williams believe that the break was caused by the impact of the crash.

Manslaughter carries a maximum prison sentence of five years in Italy, although legal sources there expect that, in the event of a conviction, a suspended sentence is most likely to be imposed.

Senna trial, page 14

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1022 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 Let off (gun, prisoner) (9)
6 Crazy (3)
8 Bracing-point of lever (7)
9 Having come up (5)
10 Back (of neck) (4)
11 Dilemma (8)
13,14 Speck in Pacific, giant carvings (6,6)
17 Scot. Sabbatarians (informal) (3,5)
18 Light-focusing device (4)
20 Suspicious (5)
21 Henry —, Eng. composer d. 1695 (7)
22 Stick: staff of office (3)
23 In over-tolerant fashion (9)

DOWN
1 Self-protection (7)
2 Composed, cool-headed (4-9)
3 Fling (4)
4 Uproar (6)
5 Uncanny state (8)
6 Bad handling (13)
7 Shabby and dirty (5)
12 Treachery (8)
15 To show (7)
16 Make more intense (6)
17 Biscuit with eg ice-cream (5)
19 Strongly recommend (4)

British Midland
The Airline for Europe

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling Economy Class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of destinations throughout the UK as well as Europe. With over 1,400 flights a week to 15 European destinations British Midland is the Airline for Europe.

All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address ______________________

SOLUTION TO NO 1021
ACROSS: 1 Basis 7 Whoopee 8 Presley 9 Library 11 Devoid 13 Arboretum 15 Up the wall 19 Yorker 21 Brewers 23 Islamic 24 Wizened 25 Dry up
DOWN: 1 Biped 2 Swerve 3 Sylvia 4 Hwyl 5 Source 6 Bear hug 10 If only 12 Drawer 14 Upbraid 16 Howler 17 Lolled 18 Skimpy 20 Recap 22 Side

Fate hands Allenby scope to make Olympic point

David Powell talks to a woman out to win approval for her sport

IF Kate Allenby succeeds in retaining her British modern tetrathlon title in Bracknell this weekend, it will be a triumph for improvisation. She hopes, too, that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) might be impressed by how determined women from the field of modern pentathlon are.

Allenby, 22, a fitness consultant from Reading, has seized on the chance to build a political platform out of her misfortune. She has sprained *her left wrist and, after deciding* that she will improvise on *Saturday using her untrained* right hand, she telephoned *several national newspapers* yesterday to tell her story *because "modern pentathlon* is a minority sport and we do *not get much coverage". It* was also a chance to score a *point on behalf of women.*

Tetrathlon is modern pentathlon *minus the riding, a* combination of fencing, shooting, swimming and running. Allenby, the 1996 World Cup bronze medal-winner, has but one ambition — Olympic gold. Except that modern pentathlon is, and always has been, an Olympic sport for men only.

"It has military origins and the men have been competing in the Games since 1912," *Allenby said.* "Women have been competing internationally *only since 1976. We have* had to prove that we can *compete at what is deemed* Olympic level. I feel we have *done that. It is just persuading* the powers that be. At the *moment the word on the* street in quite positive."

Allenby was on her way to training a month ago when *she slipped on ice and* sprained her wrist. Since then *she has learnt to fence with* her right hand, determined to compete because performances count towards selection for the world championships. Sixth in the world last year, she is aiming higher.

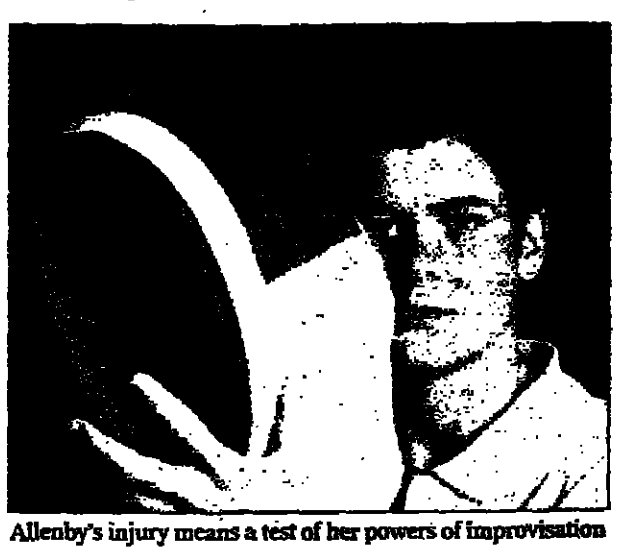
Whether the right hand knows what the left hand has been doing remains open to question. "It is going to be tricky because fencing is one of my strongest skills and I pick up a lot of points on my fellow athletes," Allenby said. "I am not as co-ordinated with my right hand, but, once you have learnt the basic moves, it *is quite easy to transfer it to* the other side."

Allenby estimates that she is "70 per cent as good" with *her right hand. "Normally, I* would hope to be leading after *the fencing, but I would settle* for the top five this Saturday," *she said. "There will be a lot* more pressure on me in the *other events to pull back the* points.

"*I have had* more time on my hands because I have not *been fencing, so I have been* training more in the other events. *I* cannot twist my wrist, but I can keep it straight, which is why the shooting is not going to be a problem."

Given the IOC's reluctance to admit women modern pentathletes, surely Allenby must be tempted to move into triathlon? A combination of swimming, cycling and running, it makes its Olympic debut, for men and women, at Sydney 2000. She is not keen.

"It works differently from modern pentathlon because it is a very endurance-based sport," Allenby said. "I would have to change a lot of my training and learn to ride a bike." Then, as she intends to prove with her right hand on Saturday, she learns quickly.



Allenby's injury means a test of her powers of improvisation

Universities unite in Boat Race declaration

By Mike Rosewell

WITH the crews for the 1997 Boat Race scheduled to be announced on Monday, the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Clubs issued a "Joint Understanding" yesterday to counter the comments in recent years concerning the scholarships being offered to attract oarsmen to the respective camps.

The "understanding", set up by the two treasurers, *Miles* Morland, of Oxford, and John *Marks,* of Cambridge, "reaffirms the Clubs' determination that the Boat Race shall comply with the highest *standards of amateur* sportsmanship and that any differences *shall be settled* privately between the Clubs."

A Boat Race *panel,* of the two treasurers and one senior *old* Blue from each university, will arbitrate and give guidance on disputed matters, particularly on admissions which "shall be strictly in accordance with the stipulated procedure of each university. No financial support of any kind shall be given to crew members by the Clubs or those associated with them."

Marks said: "There has been a lot of niggling on both sides in recent years. The competition on the water has been superb. We do not want battles off the water."

Established scholarships, such as the Rhodes at Oxford, and the Commonwealth at Cambridge, will remain, since they both have strong academic components. The Alf Twinn Bursary, introduced at Cambridge four years ago to finance oarsmen and objected to by Oxford, will disappear.

Arthritis
Respects Nobody.

My body, Your body, John's body

John is one of over 11 million men, women and children in Britain today who know just how painful arthritis and rheumatism can be.

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council is the only major UK charity financing medical research into all aspects of arthritis and rheumatic disease in Britain today.

We rely on donations to fund our many research projects. Can you help us today?

Please send me: Your FREE Legacy Information Pack ☐
Name: ______________________
Address: ______________________
____
______________________ Postcode: ______________________
I enclose: ☐ £31 ☐ £47 ☐ £19 my gift of £ ☐
Please send an Information Pack ☐
DTW20/2/97/62

To: The Arthritis &
Rheumatism Council,
FREEPOST, Chesterfield,
Derbyshire S41 7BR.

Arthritis & Rheumatism Council for Research - finding the cure
A Registered Charity. Patron: HRH The Duchess of Kent.

YOUNG OR OLD - THE PAIN'S THE SAME